

THE TIMES Tomorrow



Not-so-great dictators

Bokassa is no longer feeding his enemies to the crocodiles: 'Baby Doc' Duvalier has lacked the staying power of his Papa. Has the permanence gone out of dictatorship? Broadway melody *Me and My Girl* rocks the Great White Way Victorian recipe Traditional taste of brown bread ice cream One-day cricket England opens against the West Indies

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was shared yesterday between Mr Mark Killgarry of Walthamstow, London, and Mr Mark Duffin of Harlow, Essex. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page.

Tory MP attacked at poly

Michael Fallon, the Conservative MP for Darlington was punched in the face during a visit to Sunderland Polytechnic. Fifteen minutes after the attack he had to jump out of the way of a car which was driven towards him.

Tunnel talks

Counter-terrorism measures for the Channel Tunnel are expected to be discussed today when Mr Douglas Hurd meets the French minister for the interior in Paris. Page 2



Shuttle search

A US mini-submarine has photographed what NASA officials believe to be part of the shuttle Challenger's right-hand solid rocket booster, the prime suspect in the world's worst space disaster. Page 5

Troops lost

Two Israeli soldiers are missing after an ambush in south Lebanon in which two members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia were killed and a third Israeli soldier was wounded.

Chad bombing

France confirmed the bombing of the airport at Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, by what was believed to be a Libyan fighter aircraft approaching from the rebel-held north. Page 7

Botham doubt

The England cricket team's plans for today's one-day international against West Indies are clouded by doubts concerning Ian Botham, the man who hates to miss matches. Page 24

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MPs try to keep Leyland British after rival bids

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government was under renewed pressure from Conservative as well as Labour MPs last night to prevent the sale of British Leyland's truck division to General Motors of the United States, and particularly to ensure that Land Rover remains in British hands.

Conservative MPs representing Midlands seats were urging Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to rethink the Government's attitude to the General Motors deal after he disclosed in the Commons that other British companies have expressed an interest in acquiring Land Rover.

In addition to Lorrho, whose negotiations with British Leyland were disclosed at the weekend, Mr Channon told MPs that Aveling Barford, the Midlands engineering company dealing in heavy earth-moving vehicles, were interested in Land Rover and the Leyland Bus. Talks are already taking place with the Laird group about the bus division.

Mr Channon said that Volvo were also interested in Leyland Bus. Proposals for a management buy-out are also expected to come before the BL board.

The minister made clear that he was naming only those companies that were willing to have their interest in the businesses made public, prompting the belief among MPs that several other companies must be involved.

Mr John Smith, Labour's chief trade and industry spokesman, said that there was growing puzzlement, concern and dismay that the Government appeared to be presiding over an auction of some of the best of British industry.

He asked Mr Channon to take the matter to the Cabinet on Thursday so that "this dishonourable sellout" might be brought to an end. It was after a Cabinet discussion a week last Thursday that the Government halted a proposal to sell the Aston Rover car division to Ford.

Mr Smith also referred to reports about General Motors buying Jaguar shares with a view to acquiring that company. If that happened General

Parliament 4

Motors would, more or less in one operation, acquire a whole clutch of vital British interests.

Mr Channon assured MPs that the Government and the BL board would consider all bids on their commercial merits, but it is felt by MPs that because General Motors has been in the running for nine months it has an overwhelming advantage over its competitors.

Senior ministers who favour the American deal believe that Land Rover will benefit by the enlarged market prospects it will offer.

Mr Channon said he hoped

the negotiations would be brought to a conclusion "very soon" in the interests of ending damaging uncertainty.

Conservative MPs are to intensify their campaign to persuade the Government to persuade Land Rover British, rather than to allow it to be the "sweetener" in the Leyland Vehicles sale.

Mr David Gilroy Bevan, Conservative MP for Birmingham Yardley, will press for alternative solutions in a Commons adjournment debate tonight and other MPs are expected to see Mr Channon.

A majority of the Conservative MPs who spoke in the Commons yesterday voiced misgivings about the American deal. Mr Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, asked that Land Rover be treated "even-handedly".

Of the companies named by Mr Channon as having an interest in buying parts of British Leyland, the only new one is Aveling Barford, which was formerly part of the BL group before being privatised in 1983 (John Young writes).

The company is engaged principally in the manufacture of heavy earth moving vehicles and employs just under 1,000 people at its works in Grantham, Lincolnshire. A senior official said yesterday that he did not want to make any comment on its interest in Land Rover at this stage.



Children presenting garlands to the Queen on her arrival at Kathmandu airport yesterday.

Colourful welcome for Queen in Nepal

From Michael Hamlyn, Kathmandu

More than a quarter of a million people lined the narrow streets of Kathmandu's old town, and the broad avenues of the official section of the city, to greet the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as they were escorted in open carriages from the Durbar Square to the royal palace.

Thousands of schoolchildren waving Union Jacks and the Nepalese flag with its two points, representing the monarch of the kingdom, and the sun and moon representing bravery and peace, made blocks of colour with their blazers and ginslips.

Tribal dancers from the hills and the Tarai Plains, Buddhist priests with plumed helmet-like headgear, government servants in formal black jackets and stove-pipe trousers, athletes in trackuits and karate champions were among the crowds smiling, welcoming, and curious to see the royal visitors.

A scarlet-jacketed mounted escort went before and behind the royal carriages, and parting footmen ran alongside, bearing horse-tail fly-whisks.

The Queen and the Duke were welcomed to Kathmandu airport by King Birendra and his Queen, in a formal ceremony with the Nepalese Army band, and a guard of honour of Gurkhas from the First Rifle Regiment.

King Birendra wore the uniform of the Supreme Commander of the Nepalese Armed Forces, and Queen Aishwarya wore a pink sari with a grey flannel jacket.

The Queen wore a buttercup-yellow coat, trimmed with white ribbon, and the Duke was in a field marshal's uniform.

The British Ambassador, Mr Anthony Hurrell, greeted the Queen first of all, wearing full ambassadorial rig of cut-away swallow-tailed jacket, oak-leaved in gold and velvet, gold buttons and a bicorne hat, complete with ostrich feathers.

Mr Hurrell was heard wishing his mother could see him, and he made an unusual sight since he was not a career diplomat, but a home civil servant, posted to the overseas development agency.

The main welcoming ceremonies were held in Durbar Square, with its ancient royal palace and historic pagodas and statues. A red carpet was laid across the flagstones and the Queen was led to the Katha Mandap, the wooden house made from one teak tree, from which Kathmandu gets its name.

Continued page 2, col 4

First olive branch toward Argentina

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

In a conciliatory gesture to Argentina, the Government agreed yesterday to meet a visiting delegation of Argentine parliamentarians, two of whom are close political associates of President Alfonsín.

After weeks of heart-searching and protracted discussions between the Foreign Office and 10 Downing Street, it was decided that Mr Timothy Eggar, a junior Foreign Office minister, should invite the four-member delegation for talks at his office in the House of Commons. Mr Eggar is responsible for parliamentary matters.

However, it was immediately made clear that Mr Eggar will use the meeting simply to restate British policy on the Falkland Islands and Britain's attitude towards a resumption of diplomatic relations with Argentina.

British officials made clear that the Government would not use the meeting, which is likely to take place on Friday, to convey diplomatic messages to Argentina or to press for a resumption of secret bilateral talks, similar to the abortive negotiations which took place in Bern in 1984.

Although the Foreign Office sought to play down the significance of its decision to talk to the Argentine delegation, the fact that the meeting is to take place at ministerial rather than official level is seen as a significant gesture towards Buenos Aires.

It will be the first meeting between a British minister and Argentine parliamentarians since the 1982 Falklands war. "I am surprised and delighted that a minister has agreed to see them," said Mr Cyril Townsend, MP, chairman of the South Atlantic Council, which invited the delegation to London.

He noted that a British parliamentary delegation which visited Argentina last year was not received by members of the Argentine Government.

The Argentine parliamentarians are hoping that their visit this week will pave the way for an early resumption of diplomatic relations. That is seen by the Argentines as a necessary first step towards opening negotiations on the future of the Falklands.

Britain wants to restore more normal relations, but insists that cannot take place until President Alfonsín's Government formally ends the state of hostility.

The British view is that only after there has been an improvement in areas such as commerce, communications and fishing can there be any question of discussing the islands. But the question of sovereignty is not for discussion.

While in London the four Argentines — Senator Adolfo Gass, Senator Julio Arnedo, Señor Federico Storani and Señor Julio Bordon — will meet leaders of the three opposition parties and members from both Houses of Parliament.

Details, page 17

Saudis sign £5,000m deal

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's biggest arms export contract, weapons, spares and technical support ordered by Saudi Arabia and worth £5,000 million, was signed in Riyadh yesterday.

The Saudi agreement to buy 132 fighters, bombers and trainers in an unusual off-for-arms deal will give several years' work and secure the jobs of about 18,000 British Aerospace workers, mostly in Lancashire.

Hundreds of UK specialist suppliers will also be involved, and it was estimated yesterday that up to 50,000 British aerospace industry workers would benefit. Eventually, the contract could be worth as much as £10,000 million.

The order is for 48 of the strike version of the Tornado, built by the Anglo-West German-Italian Panavia consortium, 24 of the air defence variant, 30 all-British Hawk advanced trainers, and 30 of the Swiss-built Pilatus PC9 trainers, the aircraft that the RAF discarded in favour of the Belfast-assembled Tucano as its next basic trainer.

The original outline agreement with the Saudi authorities was concluded last autumn between Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the then Secretary of State for Defence.

Since then, detailed discussions have been taking place behind the scenes to establish how Saudi oil can be used in the payment arrangements.

It emerged yesterday that the British Government, which is supplying training and some ground support for the Saudis, and BAe will be paid in cash. The Saudis will raise the money by selling oil under an arrangement with Shell, British Petroleum and the Aramco consortium which will refine the crude.

The recent collapse of world oil prices will mean that the Saudis will have to lift considerably more oil to pay for the aircraft.

After yesterday's signing by Prince Sultan and Mr Colin Chandler, head of defence export services at the Ministry of Defence, about 12 detailed contracts covering the supply of the aircraft and spares will be drawn up. They will also cover so far undisclosed types of weapons.

About £2,000 million of the contract covers the cost of the 132 aircraft, with the Tornados costing between £18 million and £22 million each. The Germans have a 42.5 per cent stake in the Tornado airframe, and the Italians 15 per cent, and both countries will take appropriate shares in the Saudi order.

Marconi cuts

Marconi Defence Systems is to make 120 workers redundant at its Portsmouth factory.

£2.5bn bid for Imperial

Takeover fever in the City of London intensified yesterday with yet another record-breaking bid, this time by United Biscuits, which is offering £2.5 billion for Imperial Group, the Courage beer to John Player cigarette conglomerate.

Hanson Trust almost simultaneously raised its rival bid for Imperial to £2.28 billion.

United Biscuits, the McVitie's to Wimpie ham-surger group, had previously agreed to be taken over by Imperial, but those plans were spoiled by a reference last week to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

United Biscuits, which owns KP Foods, will be allowed to take over Imperial only if it sells off Imperial's Golden Wonder crisps, snacks and nuts division.

Details, page 17

Wine alert

Mainz, West Germany (Reuters) — Traces of a potentially lethal chemical used in anti-freeze have been found in 36 West German and foreign wines, the Rhineland Palatinate Health Ministry said.

End of Burke's line

by Bath Press Limited and the Daily Telegraph

Burke's Peerage was founded in 1836 and became more than 300 pages of small print recording the genealogical and heraldic history of Britain's top families.

Continued page 2, col 4

Five injured as storms batter British ferry

French cargo ship Fort Royal was also treated for concussion in Vigo after being injured in the storms. Another cold week stretches ahead for Britain with bitter easterly winds continuing to hold temperatures at little above freezing point.

Unlike weathermen in other countries, who use formulae for calculating wind-chill factors, the Met Office refuses to evaluate the effect of the wind in figures.

The outlook is continuing cold. Forecast, page 32

Libraries shake-up likely

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Radical changes to the public library service, including the closure of branches that are under-used and expensive to run, was foreshadowed yesterday by Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts.

In a report to Parliament which could have far-reaching implications for the nation's 3,900 library outlets, Mr Lacey said he had identified two areas of concern: spending priorities and the ability of libraries to meet public demand.

Mr Lacey said he received more letters from the public about declining book funds than about any other aspect of the library service. That reflected the fall in expenditure during the past five years.

So it may be timely to raise some questions.

He suggested that all public library activities should be subjected to stringent testing to see what objective they served, what they were producing, what they were costing, and what priority they deserved.

It was open to question whether library authorities had reacted sufficiently to

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WHY STAND FOR LESS?

Fewer eligible for legal aid after Hailsham orders cuts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Fewer people are likely to obtain legal aid after the Lord Chancellor's announcement yesterday of what appears to be the first cut in the scope of the scheme since it was introduced 40 years ago.

In a parliamentary written answer Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said that, against a background of increasing legal aid costs, the Government has decided to reduce the allowances which can be set against income when a person's eligibility for legal aid is being assessed. He said that since 1979 spending on legal aid has doubled in real terms.

The decision will affect people seeking legal aid for advice and assistance in civil or criminal matters.

The Government is to reduce the levels of allowance for dependants from the present 50 per cent above those applicable for supplementary benefit to 25 per cent. Regulations will soon be laid before Parliament.

The decision was accompanied by a "sweetener" in the form of some reforms to the legal aid scheme, notably a decision to relax the rules governing the operation of the controversial "statutory charge", the clawback claimed by the Government for legal aid costs in divorce proceedings in the form of a charge on the matrimonial home.

When funds permit, Lord Hailsham said, the claiming of this charge will be postponed and instead interest on the charge will be payable by the party involved.

Capital eligibility limits, the levels determining how much capital a person may have before he becomes ineligible for legal aid, are also to be raised, from £500 to £800, for certain forms of legal aid known as "assistance by way of representation".

A third proposal is to change the rules so that lawyers may be paid for work done before the granting of the legal aid certificate in certain criminal proceedings.

The announcement brought

Savage case report 'not exaggerated'

A senior consultant at the London Hospital was yesterday accused of exaggerating his report on reactions of junior doctors to a controversial maternity case involving Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician suspended for alleged professional misconduct.

Mr Trevor Beedham told the Islington inquiry that he had not been misleading in his report on Mrs Savage's management of the case of Mrs AU, whose baby died eight days after birth with brain damage.

The mother had tried a period of labour although it was not physically possible for her to deliver normally.

an angry reaction from the Law Society. A spokesman said: "We are dismayed at what is the first cut in legal aid eligibility since its inception. It will affect families with children who are the victims of injustice and need legal help."

Summons attempt is rejected

A former barrister, Richard Mawer, of Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon, failed yesterday in his second High Court attempt to have a summons issued against Lord Hailsham for alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Sir Roger Ormrod, dismissing his challenge to a London magistrate's refusal to issue a summons, advised Mr Mawer "to get on with his life" instead of pursuing "this hopeless" application.

Mr Mawer, of Court Park, who practised from chambers in Bristol until 1979, had claimed, among other matters, that there was a cover-up of value-added tax irregularities and offences of criminal dishonesty involving other members of the judiciary.

The legal action being taken by barristers' leaders against Lord Hailsham over his refusal to negotiate on their claim for big increases in criminal legal aid fees will begin in the High Court in London today.

The Bar leaders will be seeking leave to bring judicial review proceedings.

At this preliminary hearing, before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Macpherson, the Lord Chancellor is not expected to be represented.

Barristers claim that they have been underpaid for public-funded defence work for years and are seeking rises of up to 40 per cent. The Government decided on a 5 per cent increase from April.

The Law Society is to take similar court action on behalf of solicitors.

Top-level moves on tunnel security

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Counter-terrorism measures in the Channel tunnel are expected to be discussed by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and his French opposite number, M Pierre Joxe, the Interior Minister, in Paris today.

One of Britain's leading academic experts on terrorism, Professor Paul Wilkinson, of Aberdeen University, said yesterday there had been representations by police to have adequate security in the tunnel.

He said there would have to be checkpoints for people and vehicles entering the tunnel and contingency plans for all kinds of terrorism, including the threat of bombing or an attempt to take hostages.

Maximum vigilance would be called for during the construction of the tunnel, so that a terrorist group was not tempted to fit a time-delayed weapon.

There could no absolute certainty that a person would not try to do something, but modern devices, including monitoring video cameras, could help to make sure it was immediately noticed.

General fire risk would have to be taken into account and there must be ways of ensuring that emergency services could get in.

Plans for train services described by the British Railways Board yesterday indicate that security checks will have to be installed at Waterloo, one of the termini envisaged, and at Ashford, rather than the lines of monitoring at airports.

The problem will be multiplied if proposals are carried out to run through services from cities. Trains from Waterloo, each expected to carry a maximum of 770 passengers, are planned to reach Brussels in three hours and Paris in three and a quarter.

The British Railways Board said yesterday it was talking to the Government on a Customs service and security would be part of the discussions.

The Channel Tunnel Group said that when it had to submit its proposals to the Government, separate highly confidential measures on security had to be included.

As well as the two main running tunnels, there would in between be a service tunnel 4.5 metres in diameter, providing a road for electric maintenance vehicles. Fire engines will probably have to be specially designed.

The evacuation time planned for the entire system is expected to be 90 minutes at an expected peak load of 4,000 people. The service road would connect with the main running tunnels by a series of cross passages every 375 metres.

Mr Hurd and M Joxe will also discuss terrorism in the light of attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, the recent series of bombings in Paris and the arrest in The Netherlands of two terrorists who had escaped from the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland.



Four new faces at Westminster will be leading players in a series of political intrigues and scandals, in Granada TV's *First Among Equals*, based on Jeffrey Archer's best-selling novel, which is due to start in October. The actors, (from left) Sir

Minister's insurance deal

MP urges Lloyd's inquiry

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

The Council of Lloyd's, the London insurance market, is being asked to investigate an arrangement under which a minister was allowed to cut his pay-out on a loss-making syndicate.

The Times disclosed last month that Mr Richard Needham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, had refused to pay his share of an estimated £3 million losses on syndicate 244, which was managed by the agents, Laurence Phillips.

Mr Needham refused to pay his share of the losses, which amounted to about £21,000, because he had been promised that he would be placed on "safe and sound" syndicates by Laurence Phillips when he joined Lloyd's in 1979.

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, yesterday tabled a Commons motion calling on the Lloyd's governing council to "institute disciplinary proceedings into the conduct of the honourable member and Laurence Phillips".

Mr Sedgemore alleged that Mr Needham struck a deal "in which only £12,000 out of £21 million losses were paid by way of (1) a cheque for £3,500 (2) a proposed set-off of losses against tax and (3) a profit set-off".

Mr Needham told *The Times* last month that his agreement with the agents had been based on the notional losses and profits of a syndicate "which Laurence Phillips

had originally told me they would put me in, and didn't". Another member of syndicate 244 has written to Lloyd's complaining that he had paid his losses although he had also received assurances about the soundness of the syndicates.

Mr Sedgemore's motion noted that while Lloyd's has said that it had no knowledge of the agreement struck between Mr Needham and Laurence Phillips, it had "suggested that legal action might be taken against Laurence Phillips".

Mr Sedgemore called on Laurence Phillips to explain why they had not mentioned Mr Needham's agreement in any accounts or reports.

Private prisons are out, MPs told

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

The Home Office last night ruled out American-style privatization of Britain's prisons and insisted its prison building programme is on course to cope with record overcrowding.

Sir Brian Cubbon, permanent secretary at the department gave an assurance to Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Wokingham, that no work was being done and there were no proposals within the Home Office for privatization.

Earlier he told the all-party Commons public accounts committee that its prison building programme, aimed at matching the number of available places with the expected prison population by the end of the decade was still a practical objective.

He rejected as pessimistic a conclusion by Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, that unless the Home Office took special measures the building programme was unlikely to meet its target.

But he accepted that even if the Home Office meets its objective there will almost certainly remain a problem of overcrowding in some prisons and under-occupation in others.

In the next five years an extra 4,000 to 5,000 new places would become available together with 3,000 to 4,000 extra places as a result of redevelopment and refurbishment of existing prisons.

Sir Brian, questioned closely by MPs on whether overcrowding was affecting sentencing policies of courts, said: "It is very difficult to read into the psychology of sentencing but I suspect that the real choice that is made in the circumstances is between custody and noncustody."

Overcrowding was more likely to tip the balance from a prison sentence to one of non-custody he said.

Prison officers at Thorp Arch and Hull jails have voted for industrial action over moves to ease difficulties in the most overcrowded prison in the country.

The moves are part of changes to cut numbers in Leeds by putting prisoners from there and elsewhere in Thorp Arch, West Yorkshire, a remand centre.

Vouchers 'will put £20 on glasses'

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Partially sighted people who need complex spectacles could find themselves paying four times as much as a year ago for a pair when the Government scraps National Health Service glasses completely and brings in vouchers in July, the Royal National Institute for the Blind said yesterday.

From July vouchers will be given to people on low income still entitled to help with buying spectacles and the health service will no longer supply them.

But the institute said that a survey of a particular complex prescription needed by patients after a cataract operation showed the average cost of such a pair of glasses from private opticians was more than £50, much the same price as a year ago.

But in January 1985 patients had paid only £11.75 for such a pair of glasses on the health service. That figure had risen to £31.05 with the increase in NHS charges.

"If ministers provide a voucher worth only £30 or so for such people in July they will not only have to pay £20 more than now, but over four times as much as they were paying a year ago", the institute said.

Fare hearing

London taxi driver yesterday had their High Court challenge to the 50p levy for cabs using Heathrow Airport postponed when the judge, Mr Justice Webster, stood down because he had frequently advised the British Airports Authority.

Coins treasure

A hoard of Roman coins found buried in a cliff at Selsey Bill, West Sussex, by Mr Richard Ellis, a metal detector enthusiast, of Harlow, Essex, has been estimated to be worth between £13,000 and £17,000.

Case delayed

A test case claim that whooping cough caused brain damage to Johnnie Kinnear, now aged 17, of west London, was adjourned in the High Court in London yesterday until March 17 because of legal aid difficulties. Two hundred cases await the outcome.

TV gear theft

BBC recording equipment valued at £1,500 has been stolen from the maternity unit at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, where the television programme *Hospital Watch* is being broadcast over the next three months.

Family ordeal

Two hooded raiders, wielding a sawn-off shotgun and a pickaxe handle, yesterday subjected a family to a 90-minute ordeal during which they threatened to kill three children, before escaping with several thousand pounds in takings from the Billingham Constitutional Club in Wolsington Road, Billingham, Cleveland.

Killing charge

Leslie Jones, an aircraft engineer, appeared in Luton Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with the murder of his wife, Rose Jones, the marathon runner, aged 26, at their home in Layham Drive, Luton, on St Valentine's Day. He was remanded in custody until next Tuesday.

Votes for fund

Two small unions, the Rosendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives and the General Union of Associations of Loom Overlookers, yesterday voted to retain their political funds. Thirty-two unions have now made that decision.

Fish disaster

About 10,000 fish were destroyed when a ruptured effluent tank poured 50,000 gallons of pig slurry into the River Perry, Shrewsbury magistrates were told yesterday. Gary Slater, who caused the discharge, was fined £1,650.

Soldier hurt

A soldier was recovering in hospital last night after being injured in a Provisional IRA land mine explosion near Crossmaglen, South Armagh. He was airlifted to the Musgrave Park Hospital, in Belfast, with a suspected broken jaw and facial injuries.

Hattersley plans for spending

By Philip Webster

Public authorities were advised yesterday to draw up detailed capital investment and repair programmes well before the next general election for immediate implementation in the event of a Labour Party victory.

Local, health and water authorities will qualify for central government funding for schemes that create jobs, have been carefully costed and are capable of speedy execution.

But the money will not be limitless and will be applied on a first-come-first-served basis to authorities that show they are ready. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's shadow Chancellor, yesterday gave further details of the Labour plan, first disclosed in September.

He told a rail unions' conference in London that the scheme will be funded by the immediate release of the £5 billion of local authorities' accumulated capital receipts from the sales of council houses and other assets, supplemented by an unspecified amount of further central government finance.

Initially the jobs are expected to be in the construction industry, supporting services and suppliers. But, Mr Hattersley said, the additional demand would work its way into other sectors.

He said that funds would be provided by either low interest loans or capital grants. Areas of greatest need would have the full cost of the project financed by central government.

"We will not guarantee investment for schemes which exist on paper without any certainty about the date on which the work will start. So prudent authorities will prepare more than plans. They will need to know that land is available, that management teams are ready, that the raw materials are to hand, that training requirements are clearly spelt out."

Star Wars poaching denied

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

General James Abrahamson, director of the American Star Wars programme, tried yesterday to allay fears that the project would cause a brain drain from Europe to the United States.

He gave his assurances in London to a conference of industrialists and scientists who were meeting to hear of opportunities for British businesses as sub-contractors to the enterprise.

General Abrahamson said: "We are not here to pick the cherries from your own technical genius by creating a brain drain. It is just the opposite. By providing money for work here we want to nourish your own technology."

The conference, which was arranged by the Bow Group, was told of the potential for collaboration in the research and development effort, which will cost \$20 billion over the next decade.

Yesterday was the first time that British industrialists and scientists had been able to discuss contract possibilities with representatives of the United States Department of Defence since the British Government signed an agreement with the Americans in December.

Few contracts have been signed. The first was with Professor Desmond Smith's research group at Heriot-Watt University, which is a world leader in the development of manufacture of computers in which electronic circuits are replaced by optical ones.

In theory they should operate 10 times more quickly than electronic versions and be less vulnerable to radio jamming. General Abrahamson repeated the assurance that British and European patents would be protected.

He outlined several areas where European research could contribute, including work on particle beam weapons.

UDR soldiers in 'callous murder'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Serving soldiers in the Ulster Defence Regiment plotted and carried out the callous and premeditated murder of a Roman Catholic while on duty hoping that their military tasks would provide an alibi for the killing, Belfast Crown Court was told yesterday.

The victim was stalked by one of the soldiers who had changed from uniform into civilian clothes before shooting him three times as he walked home from work, Mr Liam McCollum, QC, for the prosecution, told the court.

He added that after the shooting the alleged killer returned to a UDR Land Rover where two colleagues gave cover as he changed back into uniform before driving to the local RUC station.

Five members of the overwhelmingly Protestant UDR are accused of murdering Adrian Carroll, aged 24, who was shot in Armagh City in November 1983, and of possessing fire arms with intent. A sixth soldier is accused of failing to give information. All six, based at Drumadd Barracks in the city, denied the charges when their trial opened yesterday.

The dead man was the

King denounces 'wild' talk of Unionist MPs

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday denounced Official Unionist MPs for "wild and ludicrous" talk that hinted at using the Assembly as some form of provisional government and suggested a campaign of civil disobedience.

With Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Republic's Prime Minister, due to see Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London tomorrow for talks on the Anglo-Irish agreement and Unionist leaders meeting Mrs Thatcher on February 25, the MPs were attempting to raise the political temperature in the province.

Mr Harold McCusker, deputy leader of the Official Unionist Party, said they would deny all revenue including rates and car tax, to the Government but insisted that he and his colleague, Mr Ken Maginnis, Official Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, were speaking as individuals.

Mr Maginnis went further by hinting at a possible Unionist seizure of power.

The comments of both men were dismissed by Mr King as hysterical. "It is ludicrous talk only days before they meet the Prime Minister"

Colourful welcome for Queen in Kathmandu

Continued from page 1
Small girls in red brocade greeted her, and the Queen signed a visitors' book, before mounting her carriage.

After lunch at the more modern royal palace, the Queen received calls from the Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Ramadhir Subba. Last night the Duke of Edinburgh attend-

ed a reception given by the Nepal-Britain Society, before he and the Queen attended a state banquet.

At the banquet the Queen spoke of the "legendary exploits" of the Gurkhas, who had won "a special place in military history. I am glad to reiterate our thanks for the selfless comradeship in arms which we have shared with them for so long."

The Queen, who is being accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, also indicated that Britain's aid to Nepal is likely to be increased this year.

The Queen's visit is welcomed in Nepal's official and governmental circles, where it is felt it reinforces ties which have existed since 1816, when the British and the Nepalese fought each other to a stand-

still and each ended respecting the other's endurance and fortitude.

"The British help many aspects of our economy," explained Mr Pushpatti Shamsara Rana, the Minister for Communications and Water Resources. "The Gurkhas are the most dramatic expression of that."

Leading article, page 13.

Our supporters prefer to use a pair of scissors

The RSPCA believes that the way to secure lasting improvements in animal welfare lies within the law, not outside it.

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Rector 'tricked into getting money to save man from Satan'

The caring, charming rector of a rural parish and a number of his wealthy people were tricked by a confidence trickster into a scheme which netted him more than £200,000, a court was told yesterday.

Record producer Derry Mainwaring Knight tricked the Rev John Baker, of East Sussex, into helping him allegedly buy out the trappings of a Satanic circle to turn its members to the path of righteousness. Mr Michael Corkery, QC, for the prosecution, said at Maidstone Crown Court.

But Mr Corkery said that instead the money was spent on high living, prostitutes and "fairly exotic motor cars".

Mr Knight's alleged victims included Lord Hampden, the Earl of March, and Mrs Susan Sainsbury, wife of the Conservative MP for Hove.

The plot had begun in 1983 when Mr Knight moved into the parish of Newick. He ingratiated himself with the rector and the local community by handing out religious leaflets from door to door and organising prayer meetings.

"From small beginnings by getting a couple in the village to pay his alleged debts of £6,000 he moved on to bigger fish by convincing the rector of his campaign against Satan-

ism until he had obtained around £25,000."

Mr Corkery said Mr Knight had done that by convincing the rector that he would use the money to buy articles and the regalia of a satanic organisation.

"When he found he could get money out of the rector he increased his demands. So excited was the rector at the possibility of destroying satanic organisation from within that he was clay in Knight's hands."

Eventually the Bishop of Chichester, the rector's superior, became concerned and stepped in to inform the police.

In March last year Mr Knight was interviewed by police and he was charged with a serious of deception offences in May.

But so convinced was the rector of Mr Knight's good intentions that even to this day he believed in what Mr Knight was doing, Mr Corkery said.

Six months after moving into the village, Mr Knight's wife, Gwendoline, was involved in a car crash.

The rector helped with prayer and counselling and Mr Knight went to see him and told him about his past life, mentioning that his maternal grandmother had been in-

volved in the black arts.

Mr Corkery said Mr Knight's painting and decorating business was not successful and a couple in the village, Mr and Mrs Wagstaff, paid off £6,000 of his alleged debts.

But later Mr Knight allegedly set his sights on the rector. He confided to the rector he had heavy debts and he was being hounded by vicious debt collectors. The rector agreed to help him.

Mr Knight told the rector he was prepared to give his life to Christ and one evening went into a trance where, according to the rector, he seemed to be possessed by spirits.

Mr Knight claimed during his trance that he belonged to Lucifer, had been initiated into satanism by sacrifice at the age of eight, was a master of the occult and held high office in a satanic order.

Later when he came out of the trance he admitted to the rector that he had been frightened to mention his satanic connections before because the organisation had a deep hold on him, but since 1980 he had been trying to break free.

Mr Corkery said that from October 1983 until March 1984 the rector approached wealthy, practising and committed Christians he knew.

The rector raised money from a private charitable trust and among his parishioners after he sent out a letter asking them for assistance in helping Mr Knight to break his satanic ties.

The letter was accompanied by a note from the Bishop of Lewes who said the rector's activities were "very necessary" and a genuine work in dealing with an amazing case.

Mr Knight, aged 46, of Nobles Cottage, Mill Lane, Downham, Surrey, has denied 19 charges of deception which allege that he obtained a total of £203,850 from the rector and series of top figures in the community.

The trial continues today.



The Rev John Baker, "a kind man without guile".



Lord Hampden, one of those who gave money.

Rape law changes opposed

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

Home Office plans to end defendants' right to anonymity in rape cases were strongly attacked by Opposition MPs yesterday.

Mr Robin Corbett, shadow Home Office minister, said he hoped the Opposition would resist any move by the Government to repeal the law.

"I think what is suggested is very wrong, because it would scrap the equality of treatment which both the complainant woman and the defendant would have in a rape trial."

He also gave a warning that such a move would at least "put a question mark over the anonymity of the woman, and that would be winding the clock totally backwards."

But the move would be widely welcomed by the judiciary. One senior judge said yesterday that the rule, which had come about without much thought and consideration, was "full of anomalies" and conferred a privilege on defendants in rape cases which was not justified in the context of other serious sexual crimes.

The Government's determination to press ahead with the changing the rule, contained in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 1976, was underlined by Mr David Mellor, Home Office Minister of State.

He said: "I think many people think there is no real equality between the victim and the offender, and I think it was a mistake in 1976 to put them on the same basis."

"Secondly, it is arbitrary that someone cannot be named who has been accused of rape, but they can be named if they have been accused of a more serious offence like murder."

Mr Mellor was speaking on BBC Radio 4 after the disclosure in *The Times* that the Government intended to end anonymity for defendants.

No final decision has been made, but the Cabinet is being urged to change the law after widespread criticism.

In particular, police in Wiltshire felt angry after a recent case when they felt unable to release the name or publish a photograph of a man wanted for rape. He subsequently raped another woman.

Mr Mellor made clear that no change is to be made to the anonymity rule for women complaining of rape, which was the prime purpose of the 1976 Act.

Yesterday the Guild of British Newspaper Editors welcomed the proposal to change the law. Mr David Newell, the guild's parliamentary secretary, said: "Our view is a relatively simplistic one: in all criminal cases the public has the right to know who a defendant is and just because the victim has anonymity it does not mean the defendant must have it."

Leading article, page 13

Cases of cruelty to animals soar

Animal cruelty cases investigated by the RSPCA last year increased by more than a third to 64,678, the highest cruelty tally in the charity's history.

RSPCA inspectors received more than a million telephone calls about cruelty and neglect last year, resulting in a post-war record number of animal cruelty convictions. Mr Anelay Hart, chairman of the RSPCA council, said in London yesterday.

Speaking at the launching of a campaign by the charity to raise £500,000 to fight animal neglect in England and Wales, Mr Hart said last year's figures showed an increasingly violent society.

Britain, once a nation of animal lovers, now ranked fifth in the world's animal care league, Mr Frank Dixon Ward, the RSPCA's executive director, said.

"The majority of cases involve general neglect. We need a stronger animal education programme to produce more caring owners," Mr Dixon Ward said.

But he gave a warning that increasing "militant-style tactics" used by animal rights groups did not help the overall animal welfare cause.

To show its condemnation of violent methods, the RSPCA yesterday launched an advertising campaign promoting animal welfare within the law.

The campaign, which invites the public to send a

donation "which achieves far more in the end than cutting wire fences" is aimed at distancing the RSPCA from militant animal rights groups.

Mr Dixon Ward added: "Complaints investigated by the RSPCA's 229 inspectors increased by more than 36 per cent last year to 64,678. The number of animal cruelty convictions reached a record 2,112 and the main victims were domestic dogs and cats."

Convictions involving cruelty to dogs rose to 982 compared with 880 in 1984; cruelty to cats, 229 compared with 171; cruelty to horses, donkeys and ponies, 145 compared with 78; cruelty to cattle, sheep and pigs, 103 (90) and offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act: wild birds, 328 compared with 468 in 1984.

Altogether the RSPCA received 1,008,124 telephone calls, an increase of more than 5,000.

Mr Charles Marshall, chief officer of the RSPCA's inspectorate, said "gross overbreeding of cats and dogs has produced a 'mass supply' of domestic pets with too few responsible owners to look after them."

The RSPCA is launching a tougher campaign against badger-digging and badger-baiting in Cumbria and Wales. It is also seeking amendments to the Animal Scientific Procedure Bill, which is now before Parliament.

Peer cleared of link with body in sea

A police investigation has found no connection between Lord O'Hagen, Conservative European MP for Devon, and the death of a young drugs user whose body was found in the sea at Exeter two years ago.

The investigation was ordered after counsel for a police sergeant, who was appearing in court on an unrelated matter, suggested there had been a cover-up.

The police found a car hire agreement in the name of Lord O'Hagen in the dead man's pocket. But yesterday the police said there was "no evidence to suggest any connection whatsoever between Lord O'Hagen and the death of Geoffrey Malpass".

Detective is accused over Derby killing

Det Sgt Robert Miles joined a concerted and fatal attack on a postal worker during an alcoholic Derby Day outing, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Blows were rained on Mr Peter Albury, aged 42, after he was involved in an argument inside a privately-hired bus. He hit his head on a bus rail, ruptured an artery and died in hospital, Mr Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said.

He said Mr Albury was set on by Det Sgt Miles, aged 26, of Fairmile Park Road; Mr Raymond Hudson, aged 44, of Richards Road, and Mr Michael Clothier, aged 47, of Seven Hills Road, all of Cobham, Surrey. They deny manslaughter.

The hearing continues today.

Science research given £1½m boost

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The Natural Environment Research Council is to give an extra £550,000 to university research in environmental science and related projects.

The decision, announced yesterday, is an unexpected boost as university funding has been seriously curtailed in the past five years.

The funds are part of an

additional pool granted to the council at the end of last year.

All British research councils were given an extra £15 million for this year. The Natural Environment Research Council received £1.9 million, which allowed it to boost the 1986/87 university research.

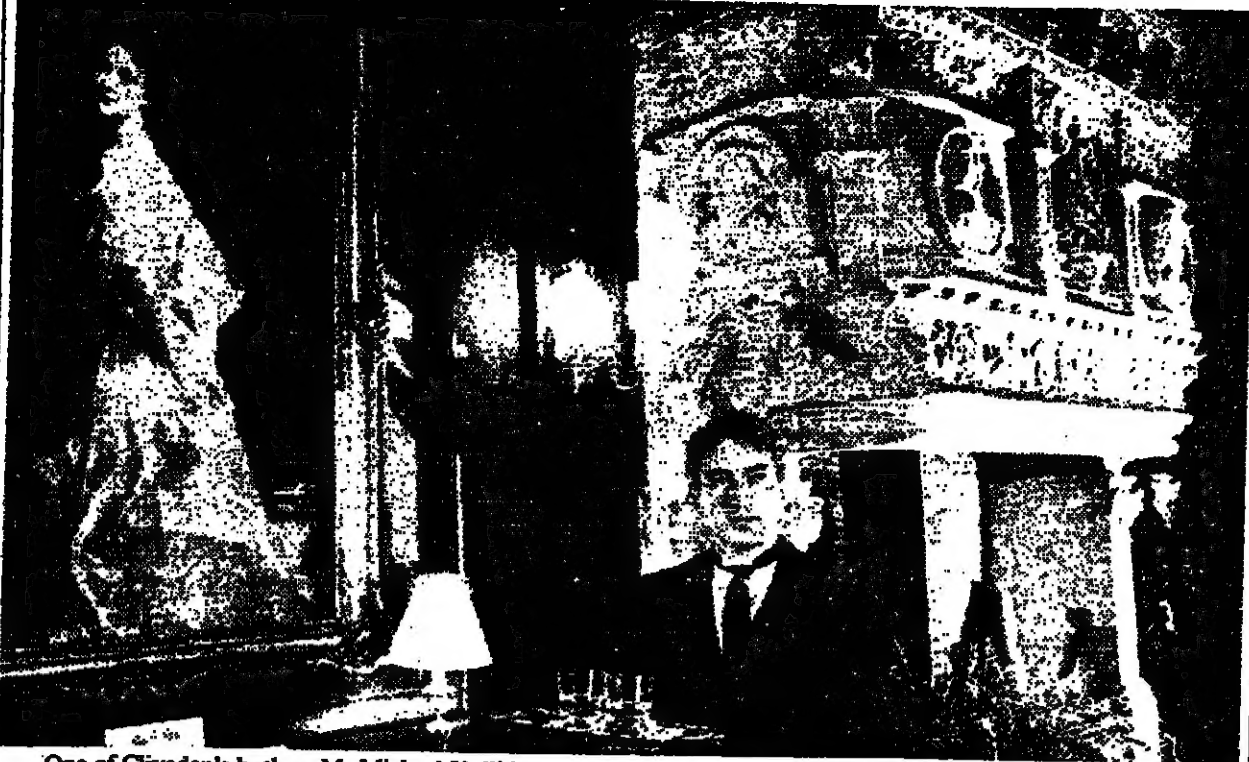
The extra money will support projects which would

otherwise not attract investment.

The council spends about £4 million a year on university research from a budget of about £70 million.

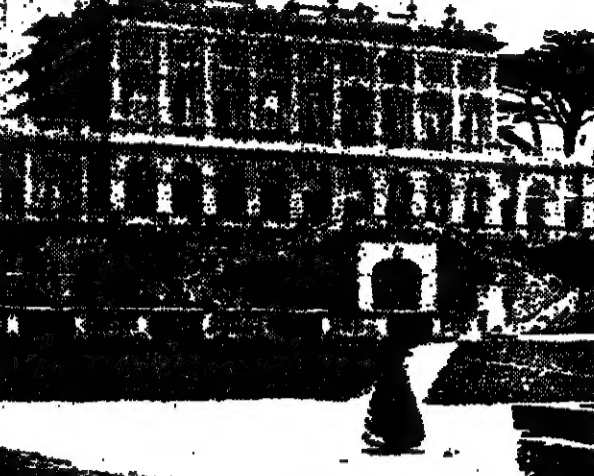
The new funding would be expected to be maintained over the next three years since the council funds will be boosted by £1.5 million in the next two years.

Cliveden awaits the new guest 'set'



One of Cliveden's butlers, Mr Michael Holliday, standing next to a painting of Lady Astor in the Great Hall.

By John Young



The rear view of Cliveden from the garden. (Photographs: Peter Trivnor).

A hotel already internationally famous nearly three weeks before it is due to welcome its first guests, yesterday opened its doors to the world.

Cliveden, one of the great houses of England, the former home of the Astor family and a centre of high society and later notoriety, will from March 6 be taking in paying lodgers at up to £300 a night.

Its owners, the National Trust, have spent nearly £750,000 on repairs to the roof, windows and exterior rendering and has leased Cliveden for 45 years to Blakeney Hotels, who in turn have spent £2,300,000 on furniture, central heating, electrical work and bathrooms.

Mr Robin Evans, the Trust's land agent responsible

for the restoration, said yesterday that he had feared an adverse reaction from members but in fact most of the comment had been extremely favourable.

The public will continue to have access to the gardens and, on two days a week, to the downstairs rooms. Guests' hotel bills will include a £2 entry fee which will be passed on to the trust.

In the past week alone, thanks to free media publicity, there have been 173 bookings. The most remarkable thing is that almost all the bookings so far have come from within Britain, when it was expected that the main appeal would be to Americans and other overseas visitors.

City fraud plot men sentenced

A group of plotters almost cheated the City firm of stockbrokers, James Capel, out of £1.8 million, using a single forged cheque, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

They were foiled just in time when a clerk at Capel's became suspicious. Judge Lipson imposed 25,000 fines and suspended jail sentences on three north London men who admitted conspiracy to use the counterfeit cheque.

Barrie Liss, aged 42, a jeweller of Wembley Park, west London, was given a 14-month sentence. David Osterley, aged 45, an entertainment company director, of Howcroft Crescent, Finchley, north London, and a City coffee bar proprietor, Jean-Pierre Irtelli, aged 41, of Holden Road, Finchley, were given 12 months each. All three sentences were suspended for two years.

Mr David Calvert-Smith said for the prosecution that a "Mr X" inside the stockbrokers, who had not been prosecuted because of lack of evidence, had taken a cheque from the firm's offices to be copied.

It was filled in to the sum of £1.8 million, and flown to Luxembourg to be paid into a numbered account.

The cheque was sent by special courier to NatWest in London, where it was examined, passed as genuine and stamped as paid," Mr Calvert-Smith said.

But the clerk became suspicious when he saw the firm was overdrawn on its daily statement and the plot was uncovered.

A former bank manager, Walter Bennett, aged 43, from Haslemere, Surrey, had given evidence for the prosecution last week before two other men were cleared of involvement in the plot. He admitted conspiracy and was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, with all but four-and-a-half months suspended, and fined £5,000.

Allen brother death verdict

An open verdict was recorded at Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday on John Tynan-O'Mahoney, aged 52, the stage manager brother of Dave Allen, the comedian.

Mr Allen, of York Buildings, Adelphi, Holborn, central London, told the court his brother had been receiving psychiatric treatment, but did not know he had cancer. His brother died after falling from a fourth floor window at St Mungo's Hostel, Earl's Court, west London, where he lived, on January 14.

Chelsea sued for damages

The man said to have saved Chelsea Football Club sued it for £48,475 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Martin Spencer, a chartered accountant, was responsible for the radical restructuring of the club's finances in 1980 as its then chief executive and financial adviser.

He claims that his service contract was unlawfully terminated for no good reason.

But the club has responded with its own claim for damages.

The action, likely to last a

week, was basically a dispute between two individuals, Mr Spencer and Mr Ken Bates, Chelsea chairman, Mr Philip Vallance, counsel for Mr Spencer's company, Canteemp, said.

Mr Vallance told Mr Justice Hodgson that a five-year agreement for Mr Spencer to act as financial adviser from March 1980 was "wrongfully terminated" in April 1983.

He said Mr Spencer was brought into the club in May 1976 after it had been relegated and was in financial difficulties.

He said: "Wind and tide went together and Mr Spencer reduced costs and introduced financial stability."

He introduced Mr Bates to the club in 1982 knowing he was wealthy and interested in football and looking for a club in the south.

The club claimed he was in breach of the agreement and failed to carry out his duties as financial adviser. Mr Spencer denies the charge and claims the £48,475 is due under the terms of the agreement.

The case resumes today.

EEC cash blow to cancer research

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Cancer research that could lead to many thousands of lives being saved every year throughout Europe is being threatened by lack of funding and bureaucratic delays within the EEC.

Collaboration among more than 3,000 cancer specialists at 250 hospitals and research units in 11 countries is at risk because of growing financial uncertainty and inadequate support from politicians within the Community.

The European Organization for Research on Treatment of Cancer, set up by research workers 24 years ago, has almost 150 studies in progress and more than 26,000 patients registered at its data centre in Brussels.

But staff at the centre were not paid last month because of delays, and none of the 22 employees has ever been given more than a six-month guarantee of work.

The research organization has been responsible for bringing large numbers of new cancer drugs into clinical use and believes that the annual death toll in Europe from the most common forms of the disease could be reduced by up to 15 per cent in the next 10 years through co-ordinated action.

The work is now funded with an annual income of \$952,000, two thirds of which is provided by individual countries. Most of the remainder, \$232,000, comes from the National Cancer Institute in the United States, but that money is being gradually reduced because the institute feels that the organization should be wholly supported within Europe.

Professor Derek Crowther, the Cancer Research Campaign's professor of medical oncology at the Christie Hospital, Manchester University, and a member of the organization's board, said yesterday: "I am concerned that the funding we need will not be forthcoming from the EEC."

"That would mean that some important studies would not be started, that others will lose support, and inevitably that new cancer treatments will be delayed."

Britain contributes \$150,000 (about £100,000) to the organization's current income

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Shuttle search sub may have located rogue rocket booster

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A mini-submarine has taken photographs of what NASA officials believe to be part of the wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's right-hand solid rocket booster, the prime suspect in the world's worst space disaster.

The photographs were taken at about 1200 ft by the crew of the small submersible searching the Atlantic Ocean bottom about 40 miles north-east of Cape Canaveral.

Nasa officials said the finding could not be confirmed until photographs and video tapes taken by divers from the submarine, Johnson Sealink 2, were analysed by engineers familiar with the 149-ft-long solid rocket booster before the disastrous launch on January 28.

Manned and robot submersibles will continue to map the ocean floor in the area before salvage crews attempt to raise the objects.

Meanwhile, Mr William Graham, acting Nasa administrator, is reported to have relieved Mr Philip Culbertson of duties as general manager of the space agency, apparently in an effort to consolidate his hold over the agency during the inquiry into the Challenger explosion.

Mr Culbertson has been handling day-to-day operations of Nasa during the White

House search for a new permanent administrator.

Mr Graham said that the position of general manager Mr Culbertson had filled for two months had "not proved effective". Mr Graham said he would now take sole responsibility for all daily and long-range decisions.

Kennedy Space Centre officials said that several members of Nasa's own inquiry board might be eliminated from the Challenger inquiry by Saturday's decision of a Presidential investigation commission to exclude personnel who helped to decide to launch the shuttle.

Mr William Rogers, commission chairman, said on Saturday that the decision to launch the shuttle may have been flawed. The Presidential commission has been focusing on evidence of a flawed right-hand booster rocket.

Experts have suggested that a seal between segments of the right booster may have failed, spewing flame on the thin skin of the giant fuel tank and setting off a catastrophic chain reaction.

The undersea search for Challenger's wreckage will intensify this week with the arrival of two more submersibles, a seven-man US Navy craft, and a camera-carrying robot submarine.

Vanishing Russians set puzzle for Greeks

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The simultaneous disappearances of a Soviet trade mission official, his young son, and a woman teacher at the Soviet Embassy school has intrigued Greek security services who are not certain whether they are dealing with defections, an elopement, or both.

Police sources have identified the missing Russians as Mr Viktor Gudarev, aged 50, head of the maritime section of the Soviet trade mission in Athens, his son Maxim, aged eight, and Miss Galina Gromova, aged 30, who teaches at the Soviet Embassy school for children of its staff.

The Greek Government said yesterday that neither the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Ministry of Public Order had any knowledge of Soviet defections.

The US Embassy here, recently a magnet for East European defectors, declined to comment, in keeping with standard practice. Important defectors usually surface again in Washington after debriefing, as in the case of Mr Sergei Bokhan, who served in the Athens Embassy and defected last May to make revelations about Soviet intelligence in Greece.

The latest disappearances could explain the bizarre episode near the US Embassy early on Saturday when Greek police chased two identical Soviet Embassy cars circling with lights on.



Militant Sikhs vowing to defend the sanctity of the Akal Takht, the holiest Sikh shrine, at a rally in Amritsar at which they started rebuilding the shrine razed by colleagues last year.

Hindu leader shot dead by Sikhs

Delhi (Reuter) - Sikh extremists shot dead a Hindu leader near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, police said.

Two gunmen killed Chaman Lal, president of the local branch of Shiv Sena, a right-wing Hindu group in Punjab state, which has a Sikh majority.

The attack on Sunday night was the worst incident of

violence in a day marked by rival shows of force by Sikh hardliners and moderates battling for the Golden Temple, their religion's holiest shrine.

More than 100,000 moderates vowed at a rally in the historic village of Anandpur Sahib to wrest control of the Temple from student-led militants who occupied it on January 28.

At a rival gathering 100 miles away in Amritsar, the militants pledged not to give up the Temple complex without a fight.

● BHOJAL: Police were yesterday ordered to shoot troublemakers on sight at Sehore where Hindu-Muslim violence left at least four dead on Sunday, the area police chief said (AFP reports).

The Francophone summit Mitterrand leads last stand against English invasion

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Opening the first Francophone Summit at the Chateau de Versailles, outside Paris, President Mitterrand yesterday called on the representatives of 39 French-speaking countries to join together to defend their common language and culture.

Mitterrand said that the identity of the 130 million members of the French-speaking community in the world was threatened. It must rise up against the "fatal abolition of differences" or else run the risk of seeing itself "very often condemned to the role of subcontractor, translator or interpreter".

The three-day summit has been seen as an attempt to create a British-style Commonwealth of French-speaking countries. However, Mitterrand went out of his way to emphasize that "freedom from all allegiance and nostalgia" was the "best rampart against the threat to the francophone community's cultural identity".

Developments in Chad and Haiti are expected to be key topics among delegates, although neither is on the official agenda for the plenary sessions, which are due to be devoted to more general issues such as the adaptation of the French language for use in computers; Third World problems; strengthening cultural and political co-operation between francophone countries;

and foreign policy and defence.

In his recent book on French foreign policy, Mitterrand spoke of his concern at the retreat of the French language in the face of the rapid spread of English, and complained of the "irritating habit of certain of our

The participating countries

Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Islands, Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, France, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, St Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zaire.

diplomats, civil servants, and even politicians to speak in a language other than their own" when abroad.

French was supposed to be one of the official languages of the United Nations and all its subsidiaries, the EEC, and most other international institutions, yet many of them ignored that rule, he said. The same was true of many international scientific congresses.

Township rioting as observers talk

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

Three members of the Commonwealth "eminent persons group" had a working lunch in Cape Town yesterday with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R F "Pik" Botha, according to government sources.

The "eminent persons", Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Australian Prime Minister, General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian military ruler, and Dame Nita Barrow, president of The World Council of Churches, have refused since their arrival on Sunday to say anything about their visit.

According to government sources, they met Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, before their lunch with Mr Botha. They are expected to be in South Africa for a week.

It is thought likely that the group will have asked Mr Botha if they can visit Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC). There has been an upsurge of violence in black townships in the past few days, in which at least nine people died, an embarrassment for the Government during the Commonwealth group's visit.

but it is not likely to have been timed deliberately to coincide with it. The most spectacular riots have been in Alexandra, a black shanty town on the northern outskirts of Johannesburg which is near well-to-do white suburbs.

The trouble in Alexandra began on Saturday when the police had running battles with mourners after two funerals for unrest victims. Police vehicles were stoned and petrol-bombed, and the police replied with gun shots and teargas. The area was still sealed off by police and troops yesterday, with journalists barred.

Two policemen were wounded and two black insurgents, believed to be members of the ANC, were killed in armed skirmishes in black townships near Port Elizabeth yesterday. The police said that a hand-grenade was thrown at them, and that they came under fire from an AK-47 rifle.

The police are also investigating what appears to be the first use of a landmine in the 18 months of township violence when an explosion ripped off the back wheel of a police armoured personnel carrier on a dirt road in Mamelodi outside Pretoria. Seven policemen escaped injury.

Italian police check sinking of hydrofoils

From John Earle, Rome

Italian police are investigating the sinking of two 20-year-old hydrofoils in Sicily's Messina Harbour on January 30.

One rumour circulating in Messina is that the Israeli Secret Service sank the Cyprus-registered but apparently Arab-owned vessels because they were used by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The vessels were built in 1965 and 1966 and each was capable of carrying 125 passengers. They were anchored awaiting engine overhauls and repairs when sunk by explosives. The charges were seemingly set by experts.

80 feared lost as bus falls into river

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

At least 80 people were feared drowned when a bus carrying more than 100 passengers rolled into a river near Dhaka. Officials said that 25 bodies, including those of six children, were recovered.

The bus was travelling from Dhaka to Faridpur in southern Bangladesh on Sunday evening when the accident happened about 12 miles out of the capital.

Meanwhile, more than 170 people are missing after two ferry boats collided head-on in early morning fog on Sunday about 74 miles from the southern Bangladesh port of Khulna.

Husak drops hint of economic reforms

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Mr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, has given a surprise hint of economic reforms while speaking to party dignitaries at the weekend. He questioned the over-

centralized state of the country's management. Since the intervention of Warsaw Pact troops in 1968, inertia and inflexibility have been the hallmarks of Czechoslovakia's economy.

Fears that this state of affairs is increasingly irritating Moscow under Mr Gorbachev's leadership may have prompted Mr Husak's tentative hint of reform.

The Czechoslovak leader observed that the party would have to allow more decision-making to take place at a lower level.

In a thinly-veiled reference to the higher standards of living of Hungary, whose economy has been developing along more flexible lines, Mr Husak said Czechoslovakia was watching carefully the measures introduced by socialist countries.



Mr Husak, prompted by Budapest's luxuries

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"This simple insurance that does more than just provide life cover for your family... it also gives you a cash return on your money."

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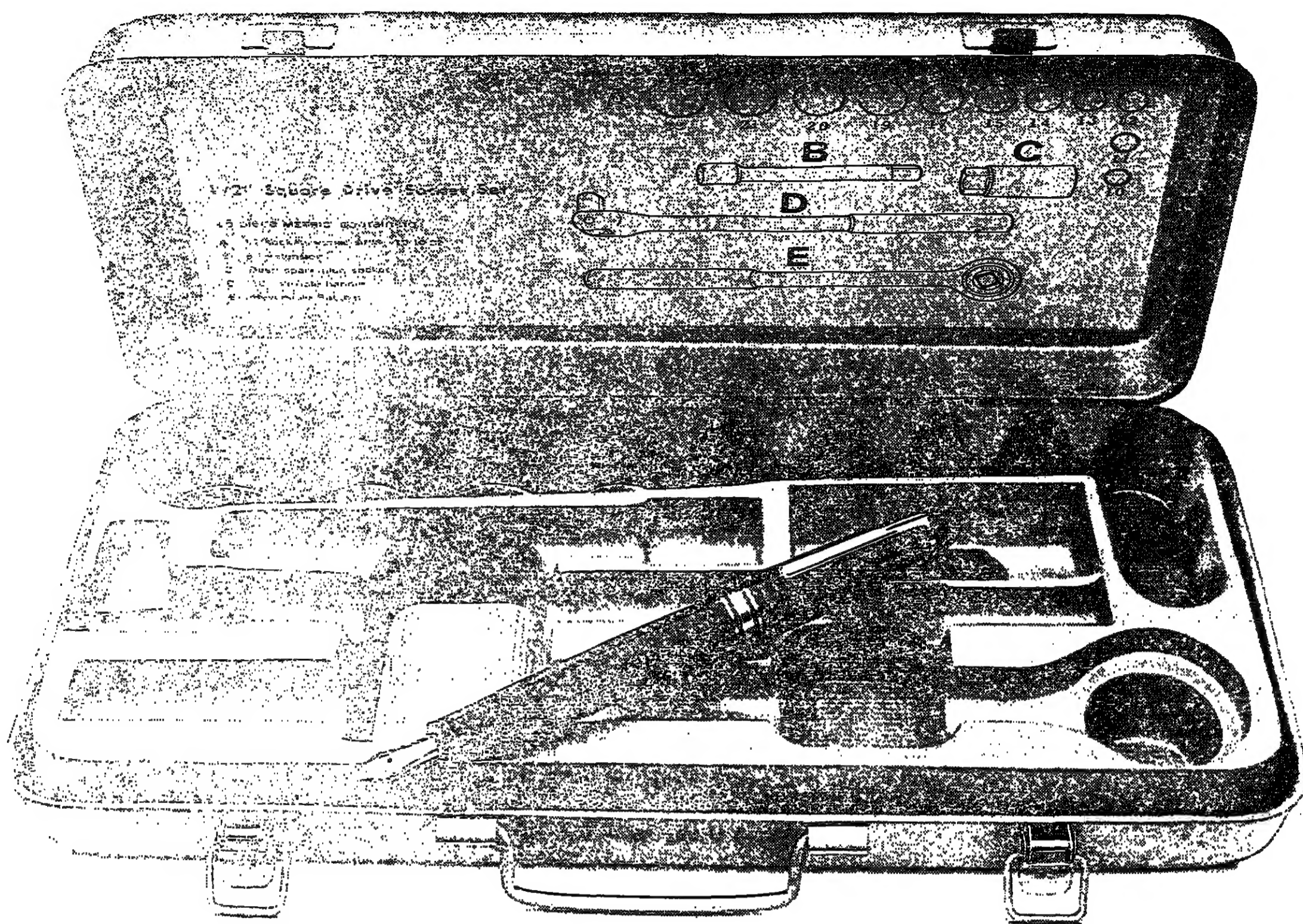
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The temperature rises in Chad

Rebels hit back at French raiders by bombing airport

From Diana Geddes
Paris

France confirmed yesterday that the airport in the Chad capital, Ndjamena, had been bombed, probably by a Libyan fighter plane from the rebel-held north. Damage was slight, it said, and the runway could still be used by military aircraft.

At the same time, the Paris Defence Ministry announced the immediate deployment at the airport, "for deterrent purposes", of 200 French commandos, Jaguar fighter aircraft and anti-aircraft missiles.

France seems to have ruled out, for the time being, any question of a second French attack on rebel positions.

The dawn raid on Ndjamena yesterday came less than 24 hours after the French bombardment of the Ouadi Doum airfield in the north, which the French claimed was



M. Quilès yesterday

being used to support Libyan-backed incursions across the 16th parallel dividing the rebel-held north from the south.

The French and the Libyans agreed to that ad hoc demarcation line in 1984.

M. Paul Quilès, the French Defence Minister, dismissed as a "bad joke" the Libyan claim that the French had bombed a purely civil airport used for sending medicines, food and other relief to famine victims in the north of Chad.

It was pointed out that civil airports are rarely protected by anti-aircraft artillery and ground-to-air missiles.

The French decision to take a tough line with the Libyans by launching its surprise attack on Ouadi Doum has been met with virtually unanimous approval here, the only criticism — from the right — being

that it should have come sooner.

Far from damaging the Socialist Party's chances in next month's general election, the raid is expected to win them extra points.

The Defence Ministry said that yesterday's bombardment of Ndjamena airport was carried out by a Russian-made Tupolev 22 fighter, almost certainly belonging to the Libyans and based in the Libyan-occupied Aouzou strip along the Libyan border with Chad.

Three bombs are understood to have been dropped from 5,000-6,000ft, but M. Quilès said that only one had hit the runway. Repairs had begun, and the airport is expected to be fully operational again, even for long-distance civil aircraft, by tomorrow.

"What happened this morning looks very much like a bluff," M. Quilès said. "It will not undermine our determination to continue to assist the Government of Chad."

He insisted, however, that France had "no bellicose intentions" toward Libya, and denied that the latest "defensive" disposition of French forces in Ndjamena was to be a second operation of the type launched in 1983 to defend the Chad regime from Libyan-backed rebel attacks.

Doubts linger on liner sinking

From Richard Long
Wellington

An inquiry will open in New Zealand today into the sinking of the Soviet cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov after the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, talked yesterday of disquieting aspects.

He was referring to the delay in calling assistance when the stricken 20,000-tonne liner began to drift without power after striking rocks and taking water.

Mr Lange said the rescue operation, which saved all the 740 passengers and crew except for one Russian seaman, believed to have gone down with the ship, was a remarkable achievement. But there were conflicting assessments, he said, over the need for an early warning and early assistance for the liner, and that needed investigation.

The two-man preliminary inquiry by the Marine Division of the New Zealand Ministry of Transport will recommend whether a full marine inquiry should be set up.

The British High Commission in Wellington said the passengers included 53 British passport holders, but most were Australian residents.

Passengers, many of them elderly Australians on a 14-day Pacific cruise, told reporters after landing in Wellington yesterday that the ship's hand continued to play and they were urged to continue a Russian wine-tasting even after the ship's engines stopped and it began to list.

When the list increased, they had to use ropes to cross the tilting deck and reach the lifeboats.

Earlier, passengers recalled expressing surprise that the big liner should travel so close to the Cape Kaikō headland. Mr Peter Evans, on deck at the time of the impact, said he was surprised that the liner passed on the landward side of a light beacon, which he thought would have been a warning to ships. Mr Stan Smith, aged 65, of Sydney, said he saw a reef so large and so close to the ship that it resembled a partly submerged submarine.

Neither New Zealand authorities nor the Soviet Embassy would say whether the ship was under the guidance of the New Zealand pilot, Captain Don Jamieson, or the Russian master, Captain Vladislav Vorobyov, at the time it struck rocks off the northern tip of New Zealand's South Island.

But some passengers said that Captain Jamieson, who had been giving a running commentary from the bridge when he guided the ship out of Queen Charlotte Sound, said he would be leaving the bridge in control of the captain and would take over again when the ship entered Milford Sound.

After this the ship changed direction to head inside the beacon and near the headland, they claimed.

Rescue centre staff in Wellington yesterday gave details of how a 6.03 pm "Mayday" signal from the Mikhail Lermontov was cancelled on Sunday night. This left rescuers unsure of whether to go to the ship's assistance as the liner



A rescued passenger arriving at Sydney airport is welcomed by a young relative.

drifted out of control in fading light.

At 6.45 pm the liner sent out specific instructions that no further assistance was needed. However, Captain John Reedman of the bulk carrier Tarbuke, continued towards the liner, as did a number of small craft. They were able to be of immediate assistance when the passengers began abandoning ship.

CTC Lines, the London-based charter operators of the liner, said its 13 employees were "severely shaken".

Yesterday's Tass report was the first mention in the Soviet media of the shipwreck. The agency said the Mikhail Lermontov struck a reef "in the conditions of a difficult passage through the fjords of New Zealand".

It went on: "After five hours of struggle to save the ship, the liner sank at a depth of 33 metres (100 ft). Attempts to ground the vessel failed."

Rapidly rising water flooded the engine room.

"The faultless training and sang froid of the crew allowed the evacuation of the passengers in the shortest time on a New Zealand ship which had sped to the place of the shipwreck."

CTC Lines, the London-based charter operators of the liner, said its 13 employees were "severely shaken".

CTC said its staff included cruise director Peter Warren from Hull, his assistant Jay Sheelock from Oxford, and a four-piece band called Joy.

The band consists of drummer Bob Wadkin from Sheffield, bass guitarist Tom Williams from south London, guitarist Ken Twiddle from Cramlington, co Durham, and pianist Lawrence Webster from Blackpool.

Moscow extends visa for Bonner

Moscow (AP) — Mrs Yelena Bonner, wife of the Soviet dissident, Dr Andrei Sakharov, has been given a three-month visa extension to stay in the West for medical treatment, the Soviet journalist, Mr Victor Louis, said yesterday.

Mr Louis, who has close ties with the Kremlin leadership, described Mrs Bonner's visa extension as a formality and said that it did not pose problems.

Mrs Bonner, aged 65, left Moscow in November on a visa that was to expire on February 28. She had heart bypass surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston in January, and has been recovering at the home in Newton, Massachusetts, of her daughter, Mrs Tatiana Yankelevich.

Dwarf protest stops contest

Bonn (Reuters) — An international dwarf-throwing competition in West Germany next month involving a British group, the Oddballs with a 4ft 4in man called Lenny the Giant, has been cancelled after protests from small people. The organizer said he had called it off after receiving complaints from people of restricted growth in West Germany, Britain and The Netherlands.

Ship towed in

Dubai (Reuters) — The Greek oil tanker Avocet, hit by an Iranian missile off Qatar on February 6, was being towed to Dubai with the bodies of two Indian seamen killed in the attack. Another two seamen are missing, believed drowned.

Bathers flee

Tokyo (Reuters) — Twenty-five naked bathers fled to the cold streets holding only traditional Japanese washcloths after fire broke out in a public bath-house in central Tokyo.

Death fall

New York (Reuters) — Joseph Duell, aged 30, a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet Company, fell to his death from his Manhattan flat.

Pit disaster

Saarbrücken (Reuters) — Seven coalminers were killed and one was injured in an explosion at a pit outside this south-western German town. The Saarbergwerke company spokesman said Sunday night's explosion had been caused by fire-damp.

Oil slick seen

Taipei (AP) — Searchers have spotted a large oil slick in rough seas near where a Chinese Airlines Boeing 737, carrying 13 people, disappeared after failing to land on an island about 185 miles from here.

Family killed

Pfaffenhofen, West Germany (AFP) — A 36-year-old locksmith here strangled his wife, aged 33, and their six children, aged from six to 12, before cutting his wrists.

Mafia swoop

Catania, Sicily (AFP) — Signor Giuseppe Altuzzo, an alleged Mafia godfather, was arrested when 300 police swooped on his Mount Etna hideout.

Asylum row

Tokyo (AP) — Mr Valeri Vachaslavovich Polyanin, a Soviet seaman seeking asylum in the US after rowing a rubber raft into Japanese waters, is in the custody of Japanese Immigration Bureau authorities after having been interviewed by Soviet officials.

Author dies

Ojai, California (AP) — Jiddu Krishnamurti, the Indian philosopher, author and educationist, who founded schools in Britain, the US and India, died yesterday, aged 90.

Europe looks to the future

Nine poised to speed decisions

From a Correspondent, Luxembourg

Britain and eight other European Community nations last night signed a controversial "European Act", designed to speed up EEC decision making, although the Act is still the subject of a referendum to be held in Denmark next week.

But the ceremony was marred by the refusal of Greece and Italy to sign in advance of the Danes.

The Act calls for the removal of all barriers to internal EEC trade by 1992, and promises to restrict the use of national vetoes by individual countries. But it offers scope for nations to dissent on matters of health, safety, anti-terrorism measures and immigration control.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office who signed for

Britain in Luxembourg last night welcomed the Act's potential for developing freer trade and the greater scope it offered for European co-operation.

The Italian Government has said it will not sign the Act, which it believes does not go far enough towards the achievement of the European ideal, until the Danish Government has had the support of the people in next week's referendum.

The Greek Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of European affairs, Mr Theodoros Pangalos, explained that his Government would not sign out of solidarity with Denmark, one of the few countries to show complete support for the Greek resistance during the dictatorship of the Colonels.

EEC ends boycott of Turkey

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

As Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, began his official visit to Britain yesterday, he received news that one of the main aims of his visit — the improvement of Turkey's relations with the European Community — had been given a big boost by European foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg.

The ministers decided to end what had been a virtual boycott of Turkey by agreeing to call a special meeting later this year under Turkey's 1963 association agreement with the Community.

Greece had been blocking such a move since official contacts had been severed after the military coup in Turkey in 1980.

Yesterday's Luxembourg decision was an important breakthrough for Mr Ozal who had been trying to normalize his country's relations with Western Europe since his election two years ago.

Britain had favoured reactivating Turkey's association with the EEC but, apart from Greece which opposed it over the Cyprus issue, several other European countries had been wary because of continued human rights abuses in that country.

He rejected speculation in South African newspapers that Unita was considering freeing Cuban prisoners as part of possible agreements to release Nelson Mandela, the black leader jailed in South Africa.

Leading article, page 13

Savimbi boasts of US arms

Jamba, Angola (AP) — The leader of the Unita guerrilla movement in Angola, Dr Jonas Savimbi, hopes his forces will be using US anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles by April to meet an expected government offensive.

He told about 20 Western and South African reporters at his bush headquarters here at the weekend that he had a "firm commitment" for military aid from the Reagan Administration, but was not certain when the aid would arrive or what it would be.

He rejected speculation in South African newspapers that Unita was considering freeing Cuban prisoners as part of possible agreements to release Nelson Mandela, the black leader jailed in South Africa.

West Germany shaken by two scandal stories

Kohl fights perjury charge

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Public prosecutors in the Rhineland-Palatinate, where Chancellor Helmut Kohl was formerly Land Prime Minister, yesterday made known that they intended to start "investigation proceedings" against Herr Kohl for alleged false testimony.

The allegation relates to evidence he gave in the Land capital of Mainz last summer before a committee of the Land Parliament.

The committee was looking into payments which Herr Kohl was said to have received, on behalf of Christian Democratic Party funds, from business interests when he was

Land Prime Minister. The suggestion was that the payments were not properly declared under law. Herr Kohl denied the allegations.

Yesterday two lawyers in the regional public prosecutor's office at Koblenz, Herr Heribert Braun and Herr Hans Seeliger, said that they would begin the investigating proceedings after Herr Otto Schily, a radical lawyer and Green MP in Bonn, had taken out a private summons against Herr Kohl for alleged false testimony.

The hearings in Mainz were part of the "Flick Affair" — illegal payments to political parties by Flick, the industrial concern, in connection with which two former Bonn ministers are at present on trial.

Taint of corruption in Berlin

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Corruption among politicians in West Berlin, or the suspicion of it, seems to have achieved all-party status.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) won the mayoralty and became the biggest party in the city senate at the turn of the decade partly by promising to put an end to the periodic corruption which had marked the previous 30 years of Social Democratic (SPD) rule in the city.

But recently two CDU officials were indicted for allegedly taking bribes from a building contractor.

Shortly after suspending one of them from duty, pending charges, the Mayor of West Berlin, Herr Eberhard Diepgen, announced in advance — since it was bound to become known — that he, too, had accepted DM50,000

to let Herr Vetter be sacrificed unless an important CDU figure is sacrificed as well.

For the first time, the possibility of Herr Diepgen's resignation is being talked about here, although there is still no decisive evidence of illegality on his part. If he is forced out, it will end the career of one of the rising men of the CDU — he is only 44 — and one who has been discussed as a future Chancellor.

As to the reasons for West Berlin's corruption, various theories are advanced. These include the city's rather unusual status, deep in communist East Germany, as well as the immense West German subsidies disbursed by local politicians, currying favour with whom is therefore important to local businessmen.

Dissident plea over jail terms

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Defence lawyers yesterday appealed for the quashing of jail sentences against three of Poland's leading dissidents, arguing that the original trial had been badly conducted and that the evidence was too thin to warrant conviction.

The dissidents — the historian Mr Adam Michnik and Solidarity underground organizers Mr Wladyslaw Fraynsnik and Mr Bogdan Lis — had been jailed for between 2½ and 3½ years last year after a police raid on a Gdansk apartment. The police said that the three and others present, including the Solidarity leader Mr Lech Walesa, had been planning protest strikes against price rises.

None of the defendants was present. Mr Michnik had applied for permission to make a speech that was repeatedly muffled at the trial — but was refused. No reporters were allowed into the courtroom and only four relatives were present. However, defence lawyers said that the presiding judge, though strict, was fair, giving counsel time to expound on the inequities of the trial held in June.

The lawyers yesterday presented a catalogue of 23 procedural abuses in the trial. The prosecution when it puts its case may argue for stiffer jail sentences. It had originally demanded five and four-year jail terms.



Iranian troops celebrate their capture of the Iraqi port of Fao, with the smoke of Iraqi oil tanks billowing in the background. The photograph was released by Iran.

Iran claims air strike HQ seized

Bahrain (Reuters) — Iran said yesterday that it had captured a control centre used to direct Iraqi air strikes on tankers in the Gulf and reported downing seven Iraqi planes, making 36 destroyed since its "Dawn 8" offensive began more than a week ago.

Iraq said that its Air Force knocked out six bridges in the Iranian cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, used by Iranian reinforcements on their way to territory Iran has occupied in the Fao peninsula of southern Iraq.

Earlier, Iraq said most of the Iranians who fought their way across the Shatt al-Arab waterway to reach Fao had been killed.

On the diplomatic front, the foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, supporters of Iraq, arrived in Baghdad for talks with President Saddam Hussein. They had previously been in Damascus, apparently trying to persuade Syria, an ally of Iran, to join moves to end the fighting, which has taken Iranian troops to the Iraqi border with Kuwait.

In Vienna, meanwhile, an Austrian doctor who examined eight Iranian soldiers flown from Tehran for hospital treatment said that they were suffering from severe respiratory problems caused by poison gas. "We will be lucky if four of the eight survive," Dr Gerhard Freilinger said.

Tehran radio said that the control post was used direct Iraqi air strikes against tankers serving Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

The post, containing sophisticated European radar and listening devices, was captured intact, the radio said. Iran says it has taken more than 320 square miles of the Fao peninsula in the offensive.

Yesterday's communiqué claimed that 530 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers had been destroyed and several others captured and turned against the Iraqis. But an Iraqi commander said his troops had retaken several positions from the Iranians, most of whom had been killed.

West Nile leaders urged to give up

From Richard Dowden, Kampala

A delegation from the new Ugandan Government yesterday met political and military leaders of the West Nile District, including Colonel Gad Wilson Toko, the former Defence Minister, in Arua, to persuade them to surrender.

According to a reliable source who visited West Nile via Zaire at the weekend, there is widespread civilian pressure for capitulation among West Nile people.

Colonel Toko, who is from West Nile, is reported to travel frequently by helicopter between Arua and Gulu, where Brigadier Basilio Okello, the former chief of staff, was his headquarters. But the colonel is reported to be undecided whether or not to carry on fighting.

Shcharansky denies religious pressures

Tel Aviv (AP) — The released Soviet dissident, Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, has defended his wife and her friends against charges that they were trying to turn him into a religious penitent.

In an interview published in the daily newspaper Yediot Ahranon he said: "Nobody is trying to influence me. Finally I am in a democratic state and also in a democratic family."

He said he would observe the Jewish religious laws he liked and would not observe those he did not. He said that his wife's religious friends "devoted years of their lives to help us, and they help now to prevent journalists from smothering me with love. They are considerate and don't push me."

Mr Shcharansky's religious and political beliefs have come

under intense scrutiny by Israeli liberals who believe he has the moral authority to influence Israeli opinion on such matters as Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and religious coercion.

Liberal Israeli journalists have said he appeared to be under pressure by ultra-nationalist and religious Jewish settlers to change his non-observant ways and adopt their religious attitudes and hardline policies toward Israel's occupied territories.

His wife Avital, who became a religious penitent shortly after she arrived here in 1974, entered a public prayer at Mr Shcharansky's arrival ceremony on Tuesday, that territory in the land of Israel is given up. She also pressed skullcap on her husband's head.

Portuguese presidential election

Triumph of the long-distance runner

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon

One of Dr Mario Soares's campaign posters in the presidential election showed Carlos Lopes, Portugal's Olympic gold medalist, endorsing his candidacy as "a fellow long-distance runner".

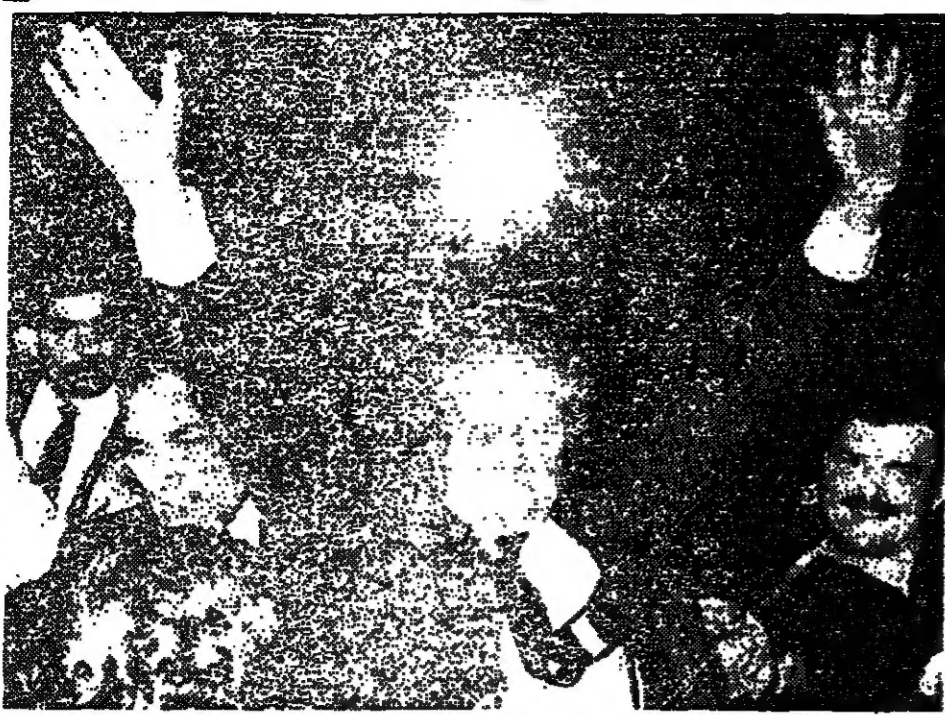
The 61-year-old former Socialist Prime Minister's victory on Sunday capturing 51.2 per cent of the vote was a triumph of political stamina.

He fought back from the rout of his own party in last October's general election to edge out his right-wing opponent, Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, who so nearly won in the first round and reached over 48 per cent in the run-off.

Clearly savouring his personal victory, Dr Soares delivered a midnight speech to his celebrating supporters in a Lisbon square, urging magnanimity in victory, promising to ensure respect for the rights of all Portuguese, and asking the whole nation to concentrate its energies now on meeting "the European challenge" after joining the Community.

The victory was well-deserved, but Dr Soares's five-year mandate may not prove an easy one. Only 150,000 votes separated him from Professor Freitas, who departed with a de Gaulle-like touch, promising his "availability" to the nation in the future.

Two deeply contrasting sides of Portuguese society



The victorious Dr Mario Soares acknowledges the cheers of his supporters.

faced each other in the campaign, and only the people's remarkable ability to live peacefully with these differences prevents an explosive confrontation.

Dr Soares's victory, however, is crucial in this respect. It shows a majority of Portuguese opt for the tolerance and openness to dialogue he personifies instead of the polarization underlying Professor Freitas's campaign. Many ordinary citizens have evidently

still not forgotten what life was like during the Salazar years. Dr Soares, whose father was a Cabinet minister during Portugal's First Republic, will enter the pink 18th century Palace of Belem early next month, succeeding an army general, President Antonio Eanes, as the country's first civilian head of state in almost 60 years.

His ambition is clearly to play the role of influential leader, even though he must realize the powers of the president were considerably reduced, ironically at his bidding, during President Eanes's second term. Avoiding parliamentary instability will be one of his main tasks.

First of all, he will have to keep his election promise to respect the present minority Social Democrat Government, headed by Senhor

Anibal Cavaco Silva, the man who broke up the coalition of Socialists and Social Democrats that Dr Soares led until last summer.

Senhor Cavaco told a press conference after Dr Soares's victory became clear that he saw no consequences for his Government and emphasized his good relations with the outgoing President.

The remarks were cool. Senhor Cavaco backed Professor Freitas for much of the second round of the campaign, repeatedly attacking Dr Soares.

The two men could hardly be more different. Dr Soares, a poor administrator although three times Prime Minister, fought for democracy since his student days and suffered imprisonment and exile under the Salazar regime. He founded the Socialist Party in exile in 1973, rushed home as the April Revolution broke and then led the struggle to prevent a Communist takeover in 1975. He communicates easily, as demonstrated by the innumerable handshakes, kisses and embraces received from the populace during the presidential campaign.

Professor Freitas's young and dynamic personality and well-oiled American style campaign did not conceal the right-wing forces backing him. Portugal has judged them as seeking too brazenly a return to the values of an undemocratic past.

Dissident freed after campaign plan upset

Seoul (Reuters) — Mr Kim Young Sam, South Korea's leading dissident, has been released from the house arrest imposed to prevent him attending a meeting of opposition politicians.

However, Mr Kim Dae Jung, the country's best-known dissident, remains under police guard.

Mr Kim Young Sam was to have chaired a meeting at the office of the Council for Promotion of Democracy (CPD) on how to counter a government crackdown on a campaign to gather 10 million signatures calling for direct presidential elections. Instead, he was confined to his house for about 17 hours.

Police have arrested about 100 opposition politicians and dissidents.

Hundreds of riot police still ringed Mr Kim Dae Jung's house and people were not allowed in or out.

The two Kim's signed a petition, with about 200 other opposition figures, last week calling for election reforms despite a government warning that they faced up to seven years' jail for doing so.

The US has condemned the government crackdown and called for the lifting of restrictions against Mr Kim Dae Jung.

The Philippines crisis

Listening role for Reagan's envoy in Manila mission

From David Watts, Manila

President Reagan's special envoy, Mr Philip Habib, visited President Marcos yesterday to begin the task of trying to find a way out of Washington's extraordinary dilemma after Mr Marcos's disputed victory in the dirtiest elections in Philippine history.

The meeting lasted twice the planned one hour before Mr Habib went on to meet Mrs Corazon Aquino, who seems to grow stronger in her conviction that she is the real choice of the Filipino people.

Mr Habib was accompanied by the head of the Philippines desk at the US State Department, Mr John Maisto, and the US Ambassador in Manila, Mr Stephen Bosworth.

Mrs Aquino and her running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, left Mr Habib in no doubt that the crisis can be resolved only by an orderly transfer of power to an Aquino presidency.

"Mrs Aquino sounded very presidential, she conducted herself in a very presidential manner," said a briefing officer.

Mrs Aquino did most of the talking, telling Mr Habib that she was the overwhelming choice of the people and that she intended to apply increasing pressure "until the popular will expressed last February 7 is vindicated and respected at the earliest possible time".

Mr Habib appears to have played little part in the meeting, being content to listen to Mrs Aquino and some of her advisers. The two sides parted on the understanding that another meeting could be arranged if needed.

Mr Habib finds the US faced with a president deter-

mined to discount the opinions of foreign election observers, the Catholic bishops, the foreign media, President Reagan and an equally determined Mrs Aquino.

It appears that American options are now limited to trying to find some *modus vivendi* between the two parties. President Marcos has publicly rejected the notion that he follow the example of President Duvalier, the former Haitian leader, and go into exile. Even if the Americans were to make that suggestion it would most likely make Mr Marcos more determined to retain power.

After Mrs Aquino's call for a boycott of banks owned by friends of Mr Marcos, several had heavy withdrawals. But it was difficult to ascertain whether this was as a result of Mrs Aquino's demand or whether it was an indication that more Marcos supporters were leaving the country.

The share price of San Miguel Corporation fell three centavos after Mrs Aquino called for a boycott of the firm's products. Although she also told people not to buy newspapers which supported the President, they have already suffered because of their rabidly partisan coverage of the election.

Mr Marcos, meanwhile, began to make good on his promise to pursue investigations of some of the campaign's worst crimes when the entire military command in the province of Antique was relieved following the murder there last week of a former governor, Mr Evelio Javier.

Dingo case mother to fight on

Sydney (Reuters) — Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, who was convicted of killing her nine-week-old daughter Azaria, said that her fight for justice was just beginning. She was speaking in public for the first time since her release from jail.

Mrs Chamberlain, aged 37, who has maintained that the child was dragged away by a dingo, told a church meeting of 1,000 Seventh Day Adventists: "This is not just for my freedom; it is for you as well... We do not ever wish to see what has happened to be repeated in Australia."

Beside her at the service at Cooranbong 90 miles north of Sydney were her husband, Michael, a former priest of the church.

She was freed from Darwin Jail after serving three years of a life sentence for murder. Her release on bond followed the discovery of a tattered cardigan, which she identified as Azaria's, near the remote Ayers Rock camp site in central Australia where the child disappeared in August 1980.

Authorities in the Northern Territory have said that her conviction stands pending a new inquiry into the case.

Late last week, she negotiated exclusive interview rights with a media group owned by Mr Kerry Packer, and is expected to appear soon on his television station and in his magazine, *Australian Women's Weekly*. Local speculation is that the rights cost Mr Packer more than \$AUS250,000 (£125,000).

China attacks Dalai Lama's view on Tibet

Peking (AFP) — China has again insisted that Tibet is Chinese territory and that "this historic reality is recognized by all who know its history."

Mr Ma Mingqing, spokesman for the State Nationalities Affairs Commission, replying to a statement by the Dalai Lama that the territory had become a Chinese colony, said: "All hostile attacks are useless."

He added: "After many years of struggling, Tibet's economy has developed greatly, people's lives have improved and the freedom of religious belief is protected by law."

The Dalai Lama said in an article published last week by the *Hindustan Times* that Tibetans do not wish to live under Chinese domination.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Poland: Czeslaw Bielecki

By Caroline Moorehead

On Saturday, April 13, 1985, a unit of Security Police entered a house in Warsaw and emerged leading a man, his head covered with a blood-stained towel. As he was being put into a waiting police car, the man called out: "My name is Bielecki-Poleski. Tell everyone that they have arrested me."

Czeslaw Bielecki is an architect, a graphic designer, a playwright and, under the pen name of Maciej Poleski, a political columnist. Before his arrest, he had been editor of one of Poland's three largest independent publishing houses, CDN, an acronym for "to be continued". During martial law, he was a regular contributor to the Paris-based émigré journal *Kultura*.

In the 1970s, Mr Bielecki, who is 38, worked as an architect both in France and Saudi Arabia. With the birth of Solidarity in 1980, he became a founder member of the group DIM — House and Town — the first independent circle of architects.

Early in 1983 Mr Bielecki was arrested, then released in the July amnesty. He continued working as an architect, at the same time publishing a series of political articles under his pen name, in which he argued that even under hopeless conditions much could be achieved.

Mr Bielecki is now awaiting trial before a military court. On October 13 he began a hunger strike for the right to see his two sons, aged seven and 10, and to be able to receive books and be granted the status of political prisoner. He is now being force-fed.

In Poland, force-feeding is done with some brutality and it has been going on for five months, so friends are now worried about his health.



Mr Bielecki: force-fed while on hunger strike

Guru flies to Crete

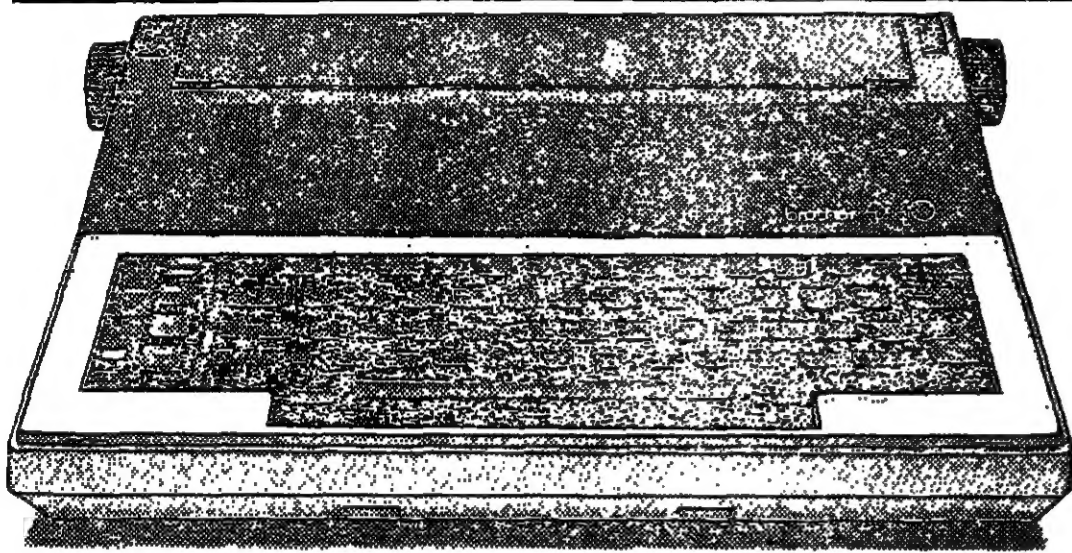
Kathmandu (Reuters) — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the rich man's guru, apparently left Nepal over the weekend, saying his disciples in Europe needed him.

"He is now in Crete, we have just heard from our headquarters in Geneva," Swami Anand Arun, co-ordinator of the Kathmandu Rajneesh Centre, said.

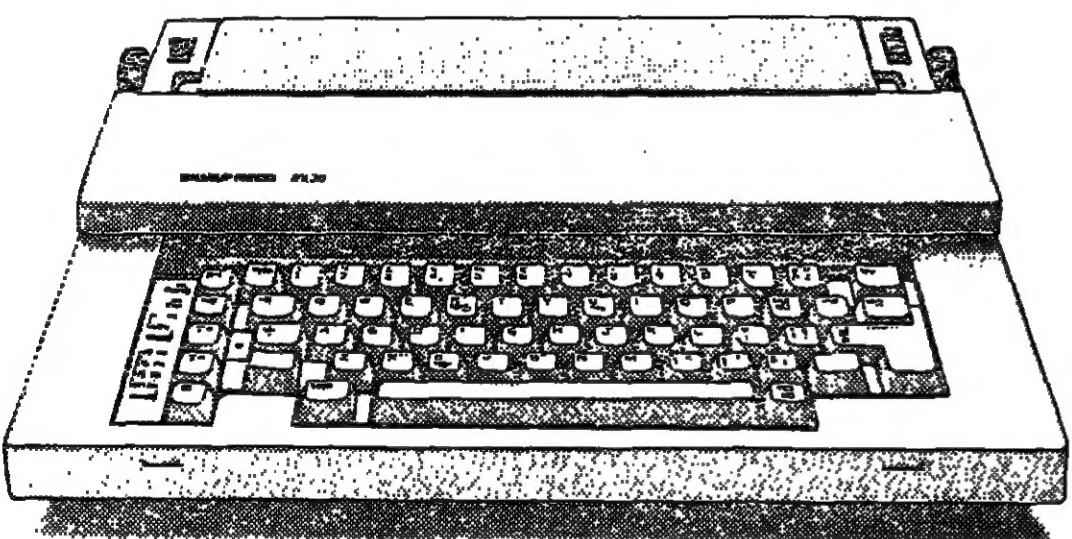
Some followers in the States

less capital were angry at their guru's abrupt departure from a luxury hotel here. Swami Arun denied that the departure of Rajneesh had anything to do with the arrival today of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a five-day state visit.

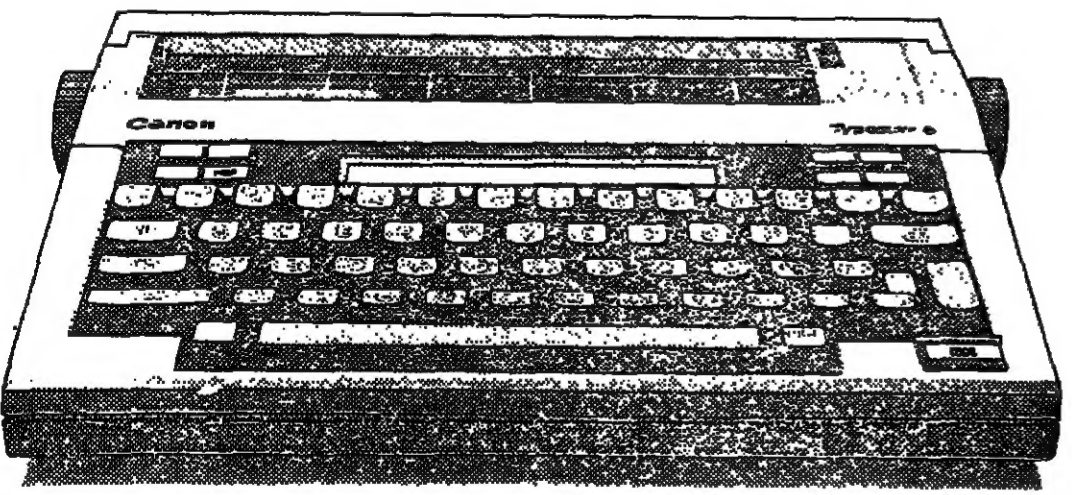
The guru, aged 54, left the US last November after pleading guilty to immigration charges.



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Silver Reed EX30 Electronic Typewriter. 96 character keyboard 12" paper width. Printing speed 10 c.p.s. Typing pitch selector 10/12/15. Interchangeable typewheel. 25 character automatic correction. Key buffer - 24 characters. Exclusive to WHS. Normal Price £245.00. WHS Price £230. Save £15.



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Silver Reed SR2600CR.....	£159.95	£152.45	£7.50
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Silver Reed EXD10.....	£99.95	£94.95	£5.00

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Subject to availability. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offer ends March 9th. Some types may be available at larger branches only while stocks last.

هكذا من الأصل



Only one British airline flies non-stop to Saudi Arabia. (The service is non-stop, too.)



"An aisle seat? Certainly sir."



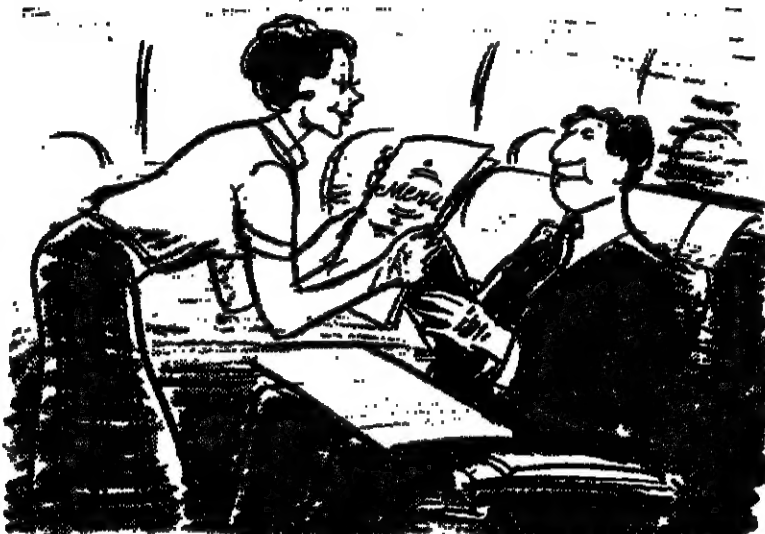
"Good afternoon, sir."



"Shall I take your coat?"



"Champagne, sir?"



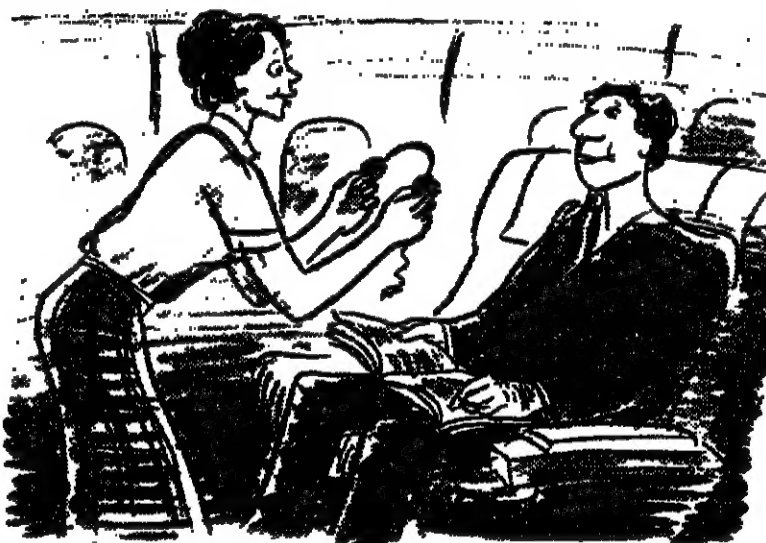
"Your menu, sir."



"Enjoy your meal, sir."



"More coffee, sir?"



"The film soundtrack's on Channel 2."



"Would you like a blanket as well?"



"The local time? Just after 9, sir."



"Don't forget your hand baggage, sir."



"Hope you enjoyed the flight, sir."

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SPECTRUM

A dish for TV gluttons

Not long ago, perhaps as late as last week, it was enough to own a portable video Super-8 Camcorder and Cellnet telephone to feel at the forefront of white-hot technology. Not any more. For the status-conscious, a parabolic television antenna is what now piques the neighbours. It is a big white dish, generally between 1.5 and 1.8 metres across, on a tall tripod moored in concrete. Whether squatted roadside in the shrubbery, or perched unblinking on the roof, it cannot be ignored.

Possession of a satellite dish distinguishes someone as an "early adopter", the kind of person market research defines as the first to acquire anything newfangled. A fashionable arcane vocabulary accompanies it. One must always speak of the "backyard dish". The satellite at which it is pointed is the "bird". Quite soon one is casually dropping jargon like "footprints" (the ground area covered by satellite beams) and "TVROs" (Television Receive Only; dishes which can receive but not transmit signals).

In Britain, the number of owners is in the hundreds, not thousands. They are an exclusive bunch of electronics enthusiasts, media folk and rich businessmen, especially European expatriates wishing to watch television in their own language. For less than £4,000, including VAT and installation costs, they can receive up to 21 TV channels from Britain and abroad.

A "working tool" is how television personality and programme archivist Bob Monkhouse regards his £3,000 dish, "an ugly bastard" condemned to one of the darker corners of his garden near Woburn. "When I come to argue it out with the taxman, any claim that it's purely for amusement will be met with the fact that I need to watch any accessible programme that will provide me with comedy material", he says.

Forty years before he bought his dish, Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction author of 2001, *A Space Odyssey*, was inventing its concept. The satellite communications industry is the product of his discovery that satellites travelling in synchronous orbit with the earth, 22,400 miles above the equator, will appear stationary and so be able to transmit to designated parts of the globe. But not until recently have individuals, at least in Britain, wrested the technology from governments and telecommunications giants.

Historically, satellites have been crucial to the development of cable television. Satellite TV plucks pictures from the sky, cable sends them down a landline into the home. But cable programme-makers need satellites to relay signals, both locally and internationally, to the cable operators, who then transmit them to their subscribers. The American cable TV boom of the late 1970s began only when satellites were made

Satellite television is the latest craze among gadget-lovers. It may turn your back garden into Jodrell Bank, but how else do you watch Norwegian religion or *Lassie* in German?



MIRRORVISION Robert Maxwell's feature film service whose output ranges from Alan Bennett's *A Private Function* to *Murdered A Centrifuge*, *What's Up Nurse* and *Dribble*.



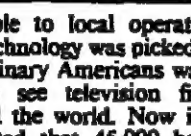
SCREEN SPORT From American ABC network. Sport is shown alongside less orthodox activities - roller derby, arm wrestling and blue marlin fishing. Today features rock climbing and stock car racing.



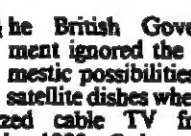
TV5 French entertainment channel with programmes from Europe and French-speaking Canada. Today showing an old Fernandel film and a variety show.



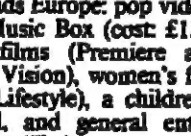
THE ARTS CHANNEL W.H. Smith's culture vulture channel for early-risers (6am-9am), which today features modern sculpture and the playwright Jules Feiffer.



TELECLUB German-Swiss company showing mostly English-language films with subtitles. On offer tonight are *Gandhi* and *Blame It on Rio*.



FILMNET Dutch feature film service. English films with Dutch subtitles. Tonight offers *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and *Grease 2*.



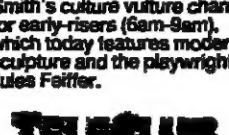
LIFESTYLE W.H. Smith's channel aimed at housewives. Broadcasts advice about sex, cooking and divorce plus a weekly spot from Dr Miriam Sheppard. 8am-12.30pm.



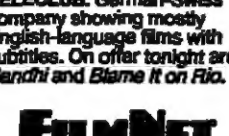
SKY CHANNEL Owned by Rupert Murdoch. Offers general entertainment dominated by old American series like *The Lucy Show* and *The Untouchables*.



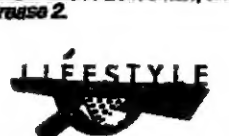
THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL Programmes for youngsters from 7am until 3pm. Owned by Thorn-EMI. Starts off the day with *Tin Tin*.



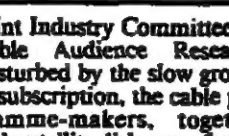
MUSIC BOX Also owned by Thorn-EMI. Shows 18 hours of pop videos, 15 every hour.



SAT 1 German-language news, sport and film network. Tonight offers *Lassie*, *Ted* and *Die Leute von der Shiloh Ranch*.



PREMIERE Owned by Thorn-EMI and shows mainly feature films, including tonight's *Snow White* and *The Seven Dwarfs*, *Children of The Corn* and *Great Expectations*.



Other foreign channels are RTL-Plus (German), NRK TV Norge and its Norwegian fellow countryman New World Channel, which offers religious programmes. Two Russian channels, *Programma 1* and *2*, can be received with special equipment. Most Russian programmes are "cultural", but there is soccer and ice hockey.



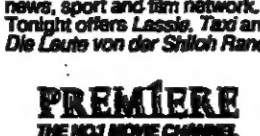
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news in French or German every night. Indeed, many of the early British systems were bought by the RAF and Army for teaching recruits Russian.

However, the best case for satellite TV is made by the live 24-hour Cable News Network, relayed to Europe from Atlanta by the mighty Ted Turner, an interloper both admired and mistrusted by European broadcasters. The BBC and ITV covered the recent shuttle disaster using his pictures. CNN, a "window on the USA", now constitutes the biggest sales pitch for the consumer satellite market.

Of course, manufacturers and distributors of satellite TV equipment stand to benefit greatly from deregulation. Northern-based Sat-Tel, Britain's largest manufacturer selling to the professional telecommunication industry, now makes a domestic dish costing £1,000. The leading distributor, Megastar, was simply "hanging in" until last May, as Graham Lawson, its managing director, cheerfully confesses. But he expects a £1 million turnover this year.

The dishes he sells, made of aluminium or fibre-glass, come in kits like DIY furniture, together with a low-noise block converter for processing the satellite signals, and the receiver, a box placed next to the TV set. Suppliers will carry out installation for a fee which can be several hundred pounds, according to the degree of difficulty and distance travelled. A clear line of sight is necessary from the premises to the two European satellites available, Intelsat V and ECS F-1 (European Communications Satellite).

Megastar's four domestic systems range from £1,030 to the £2,850, which has a motor for pointing the dish towards the satellites and a computer tuning in each channel. Without the motor you must put on wellies and turn the dish by hand. But technology is praised - with more powerful direct broadcast satellites (DBS) due for launching, the dish may end up being little bigger than a dinner-plate sitting on top of the telly. Then, say experts, prices could tumble to £500.

Although the importance of technology and retailing costs cannot be overlooked, the quality and quantity of the programmes will decide the future of satellite television. Sky, with its seven million viewers across Europe, is well placed for the battle looming between the programme-providers. But the specialist English-language channels, dependent on small cable subscriptions and/or limited advertising, face difficulties. Premiums, in fact, is already being sold off.

The programme-makers are threatened, ironically, by the "open skies" philosophy implicit in satellite television. At present anyone with the equipment can pick up their programmes without actual payment. So they are almost certain to follow Sky's example and scramble the satellite signal. A dish owner would then have to spend up to £200 on a decoder.

But even among the big guns there is uncertainty and frantic activity. ITV has announced a Super Channel to carry the best of ITV and BBC programmes, though the BBC may yet move separately. Sky's owners, News International and Virgin, a shareholder in Music Box, are part of a conglomerate with plans for a system in which anyone can bid to supply programmes. And next year Robert Maxwell, owner of Mirror Vision, hopes to launch a second channel from a new French DBS satellite.

With so much money on the table, satellite television looks a good bet to happen, as turf accountants will soon confirm. But many questions remain, the most vital being: will national television be drained of money to fund even cheaper cable shows? Or is it all just pie in the sky?

Michael Watts
OTTAWA NEWS PRESS 1.12.1985

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 878)

ACROSS

- 1 Tremble (6)
- 2 Goods vehicle (3)
- 3 Inmate (4)
- 4 Sundry black (5)
- 5 Cough medicine (7)
- 6 False impression (8)
- 7 Beloved (4)
- 8 Tamed (7,8)
- 9 Immortal battle (4)
- 10 Qualified (8)
- 11 Set Zodiac sign (7)
- 12 Poisonous (5)
- 13 Cow shelter (4)
- 14 Showy clothing (6)

DOWN

- 1 Shock (5)
- 2 Sundry black (5)
- 3 Scaugh-through ferry (4,2,2,2)
- 4 Sundry black (5)
- 5 Tolerant (7)
- 6 Sudden ideas (10)
- 7 Sinfulness (10)
- 8 Hippocampus (13)
- 9 Hippocampus (13)
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SOLUTION TO No 877
ACROSS: 1 Crab 4 Mackerel 8 Actor 9 Torture 10 Salaried 11 Fall 13 Hippocampus 17 Alps 18 Funeral 21 Distract 22 Olive 23 Mystery 24 Snail
DOWN: 1 Cheese 2 Until 3 Bankrupt 4 Mother country 5 Cove 6 Educator 7 Eaves 12 Repentance 14 Impetus 15 Randomly 16 Floor 19 Blue 20 Seal



Wine and song but no women: Laurie Lee in his attic, strictly a work area

Confessions of a cider man

In Laurie Lee's Chelsea attic, Val Hennessy finds a new volume is quietly stirring

It is three years since Laurie Lee invited anyone to his attic hideaway in Chelsea, a place full of locked rooms containing rejected manuscripts and other men's mad wives. Or so he says. He also says he doesn't own a telephone, so when one suddenly bleeps as we are matting climbing glasses to toast the forthcoming BBC television film of his classic, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*, I tactfully disregard it.

Lee ignores it too. He gazes evasively through the window, the cracks of which are ineptly sealed with shrunken brown sticky tape, and he enthuses about the view. "I watch Concorde go over, a beautiful sight, and Prince Andrew dipping his helicopter over the palace to wave to Ma'am, and the seagulls, a sign to batten down the hatches..."

Lee, poet, essayist, OBE and author of one of the most

I've depended on women as voluptuous refuges

lyrical autobiographies in the English language, *Cider with Rosie* is a bit of an old resal. The literary world tells tales of his partiality for the hard stuff, how he fell off the podium at a poetry-reading, how he smuggles drink into readings in ink bottles. He tells tales about himself, like the one about the day he was sitting outside the pub in his native Cotswold village. Slad, when a party of giggling schoolgirls asked: "Excuse me, sir, can you tell us where Laurie Lee is buried?" in the polite version he replies (and here you must imagine his Gloucestershire burr): "Laurie Lee is usually buried with his nose in a pint of bitter if you'd care to join me in the public bar". In the saucy version he replies: "Ooh ar, come up the wood, girls, and Laurie Lee will soon show you where he wants to be buried".

You can forgive bawdiness from the man who wrote: "Such a morning it is when love/leaves through geranium windows/and calls with a cocker's tongue..." And you can countenance a certain amount of interperate rambling from the man who, at 19, left his mother's cottage to walk to London and then through Spain, from Vigo to Andalusia, playing a violin for money as he went.

Not that the man will discuss either his poetry or the BBC film of that celebrated trek. "It's fairly true to my book", he concedes, "they shot it last year in Spain, the

appears not to hear. When I inquire whether he's slightly deaf he replies: "My dear daughter Hesse, who gives me kisses in exchange for pound notes, describes me to people saying, 'he stumbles and he's a bit deaf but he's ever so young...' One never says one's deaf, you know, as one never says one's alcoholic. Incidentally, my GP recently asked me what I'd drunk that day and I replied two beers and a short which is alcoholic code, as all GPs know, for 15 beers and half a bottle of whisky."

At this point the post arrives. Lee nips into the hall, wildly slitting open envelopes until, like a sniffer-dog pouncing on drugs, he finds a cheque. While I ask a feeble question about his work in progress he waves the cheque gleefully like a flag. "That's the question I always shy away from", he replies, topping up the glasses. "Further more, I don't even think of myself as a writer now. More a communicator and interpreter of something which I still think of as being magically unique, that is this world and this life which, in spite of shadows and occasional pain, has been a perpetual excitement and joy. I never intended to be a writer. I left the village school at 14. I just scribbled for my family and girlfriends. When I was in my 20s a rather grand

"I began telling him how I've always depended on women as voluptuous refuges. How I often live alone because unlike certain more august writers, like Blake and Dickens, I can't work with women in the room."

"This is the reason I don't live at home all the time with my dear wife. I love visiting her, then returning to my London fortress where I work. The pleasure of welcome is only exceeded by the pleasure of saying farewell."

So what is Laurie Lee writing these days? "Cheques", he replies with a wistful sniff, "gas bills, VAT returns. I spend a lot of time answering letters from people wanting their poems published. Schoolchildren doing *Cider with Rosie* for O level write to me. My serious objection to being on the syllabus is the daft exam questions they set. But I won't say more on that topic [scoots sheepishly] in case they take me off the syllabus and my royalties dry up."

Obviously "the royalties" keep the wolf from the door, not to mention the scotch on the rocks, the book having sold two million in paperback. Lee confesses it is a mystery to him that a book about rural life before it was "raped by the combustion engine" still attracts readers. "I hazard yet another query about his current output, by

And that's it. He invites me to peep at a heap of letters, lists, bills and poems in a room of unspeakable chaos, and steers me downstairs and out into the gloomy street, where love is definitely not calling with cocker's tongue but where we spot the first handful of snowdrops thrusting up through the grime and

I don't even think of myself as a writer now

girlfriend found my poems on the floor and persuaded Cyril Connolly to get them published."

Bemoaning the fact that he writes very slowly, he suddenly lets slip that the sequel to his half-a-million bestseller, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*, is nearing completion. "It's a book of defeat, pain and disaster. About a winter when the anti-Franco side were in retreat, Franco was winning and our side had no arms. I'm also writing my *Deathbed Confessions*, but that's all I'm prepared to say. No one wants to hear an old poet rambling pompously on about his next book."

Is this the kind of book children v

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH
YES OR NO

Would you treat a child suffering from leukaemia?					
Would you retain Society's hard won control over poisons, diphtheria, TB and smallpox?					
Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety?					
Would you agree that we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and heart disease?					
Would you like to see a cure for AIDS and Legionnaire's disease?					

Animal experimentation has made an essential contribution to the control and eradication of serious diseases. Much more requires to be done - this work must continue.

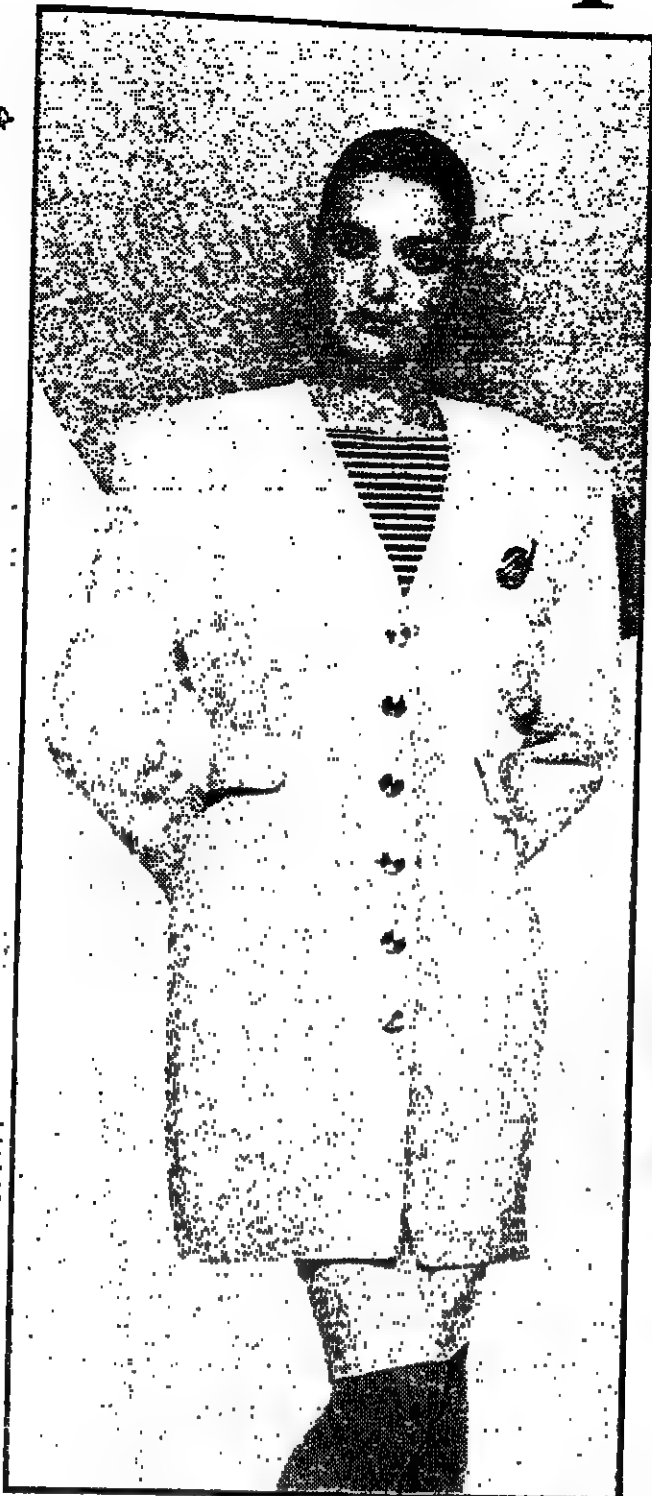
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Shaping up for a spring clean



Clean is the message and shape is the story for spring. Simple clothes make their impact with sharp cut rather than fancy detail. The spring suit is back at centre stage and takes over from all those cunningly mismatched separates. The curvy all-woman suits have short tight skirts and scornfully turn a shapely *derrière* to mannish looks, androgyny and over-size.

This tender tailoring gives us fashion on the curve. Although there is a hint of the sharp-angled 1960s, the new clothes are drawn with a compass rather than a set-square. Shoulders are still padded but bust, waist and hips are all rounded. The new silhouette comes much closer to the body line, with twin seams gathering in the folds of fabric to make jackets fit for spring.

King of the curves, and the alchemist of this fashion change, is Paris designer Azzedine Alaïa. He moulds corsets of wool jersey and stretch viscose to the female body. Those who dismiss his outline as extreme forget that the first statements about changing fashion are always dramatic.

Alaïa's new collection is based on an all-in-one garment which he calls, appropriately enough, "the body". The Tunisian-born designer, who stands waist-high to his favourite muse, Grace Jones,

once designed costumes for the Crazy Horse strip show. He has a cartoon-strip view of women and one that flouts the feminist fashion creed. But Alaïa has worked for 20 years as a couturier for private clients and his ready-to-wear clothes, made in artfully seamed soft fabrics that fit and cling, are more wearable than might first appear.

Alaïa has also acted as a catalyst for other designers who have now thrown off layers and shrouds and brought the body back into focus in their own way. French designers, who are always strong on tailoring, have been quick to develop the style. The young Parisian designer Myrène de Premonville is in the new mood, and so are young British names like John Rocha and Jasper Conran.

The curvy jacket and slim skirt are the linchpins of the new spring style. The skirt comes mostly in just one shape: tubular and on-the-knee. It is worn with flat pumps and crepe tights or high heels and glossy legs. Hemlines come both longer and shorter, but the skirts are always need-slim and need to be seen in proportion to the jacket (and your hip-size).

The newest skirt of all is the sarong, which has all the appropriate curviness and comes in light jersey and fine gaberdine, as well as the more traditional summer cottons. Flat materials, both matt and silky and especially wool

gaberdine, make the fabric story of the season.

The jacket is the key purchase, buttoned high and always moulded with seaming from bust to waist and hips. There are some curvy jackets among the oversize in the chain stores, but this is mostly a look that is coming from the designers and will only later work through high streets and wardrobes at the lower prices.

The newest shape of jacket is the riding coat — a three-quarter-length jacket following the body to mid-thigh and

worn over a slim short skirt. This was a significant shape in the Paris couture collections and is already on sale from the forward-looking ready-to-wear designers.

The riding coat shadows the body gracefully, shapes a less-than-perfect body, and makes an outfit that expresses fashion's new sophistication after a decade of sporty separates.

There is more than a hint of the 1960s about some of the jackets, which are round-necked, collarless and high

buttoned. A confetti sprinkling of buttons down the front is the only detail to break up the uncluttered line. Keeping it simple is also the message for hair and accessories which all need to be sharp and clean.

Under the jacket goes the simplest sweater, a ribbed polo neck or cut-away top (also redolent of the 1960s).

The shapely jacket is often worn over nothing at all. For the suit has come back not just to the body-line, but in a way that makes it sexy, young and fun.

Centre: Azzedine Alaïa's dramatic S-line, cut to cling in shiny stretch viscose. Body-moulding bronze dress with polo collar, £172, wide and striped tan leather belt. Three-quarter length fitted cardigan coat with padded shoulders, £215. All by Azzedine Alaïa from Joseph Pour La Maison, Sloane Street, SW1. Glossy tights by Aristoc

Far left: Hourglass three-quarter fitted riding coat in herringbone silk with gilt buttons. By John Rocha £215 from Gallery 28, Brook Street, W1. Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. The Changing Room, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; Chinatown Clothing Company, Dublin. Striped cotton sweater, £90, slim gaberdine skirt, £107, both by Edina Ronay, 141 Kings Road, SW3. Liberty's, Regent Street, W1. Gilded twist earrings and brooch

Top right: Gently fitted double-breasted jacket, £165, and slim skirt, £72, by Nicole Farhi in rose pink wool gaberdine, also navy and jade. Soft white blouse, £59.95, by Joseph Jannard, all from Farwick's, New Bond Street

Right: Rajah jacket in canary yellow wool gaberdine, fitted thigh-length and collarless with slender skirt. Suit by Premonville at Desworin, £395, also in white or black from Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. Zip-up matt black swimsuit, £65, by Katharine Hammett from 50 South Molton Street, W1 and 1248 Kings Road, SW3 from March; Corniche, Edinburgh; Review, Cheltenham; Square, Bath. Belt, Alaïa.

All jewellery from Cobra and Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, SW1. Hair by Lawrence at John Freda

Photographs by David Bailey

A NEW DESIGN BY EDWIN BELCHAMBER

EHRMAN TAPESTRY

Last year Edwin Belchamber designed a lovely tapestry for us inspired by the garden at Sissinghurst in Kent. It was such a success that he has now produced a pair for it. The Lily Pond and surrounding garden are in soft blues and greens with the wall and bench in tones of brown and beige. The picture is enclosed by a border of pale blue flowers on a bottle green background. Designed as a picture it would also make a charming cushion.



The design measures 14 1/2" x 14 1/2" and is worked in simple half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full ten colours: Grass green, bottle green, powderblue, olive, hazelnut, royal blue, fawn, French navy, a very deep green and beige. The canvas is 12 holes to the inch and the kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Appleton tapestry range, needle and instructions. All for £19.25 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST — No stamp needed.

Ehrman, 21-22 Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4AA. Partners J. & R. Ehrman. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if not returned unused within 14 days.

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Please send me tapestry kits at £19.25 each.

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KISS OF THE BRIDAL WOMAN

- The romance of the bride is the theme of store displays this month. The young make-up ranges are also in the wedding tradition for they have borrowed grand old names, come up with new textures and shadowed it all with something blue.
- The dressing-up look of winter beauty has freshened — but there is still a faint feel of decadence in the moody mauves, slate blues and poison pinks that make up the cosmetic colour schemes.
- Miss Havisham is the bride who springs to mind for Way-in's dramatic new beauty range launched last week. A light touch of post-punk, a gloss of Sixties style, all on a base of super-Sloane, makes up this striking collection.
- Eyes are in focus with duo sets of strong shadow (£2.95) using mixes of pink and mauve or lime and apricot, with cheeky names like Buckingham Royals and Camden Look. There are also strong lip colours suggesting Bad Girls, who wear bright Piccadilly Pink or Soho Orange.
- Young accessories to light up a teenage make-up corner are fat blusher brushes in vivid Day-glo colours.
- Lips are in the news with the Nouvelle Kissine range from Miss Selfridge's Kiss and Make-up cosmetic collection. Refreshing colours for spring honeymooners are tangerine, pomegranate and tequila among a cocktail of equally delicious shades.



Sling-it

Heels as well as skirts are going up in the world. The slim-line silhouette and its short and sassy headline demand a change of pace for shoes.

The shape of the heel can vary from a teetering stiletto to a lousie heel with less height but the same feminine curve. Cuban heels are sharply angled, ending on fine spindly points. If heels are low they are still pointed, but triangular, so low-heeled pumps are now low-heeled court shoes. As a half-way measure, the wedge heel is a strong story this season. The 1960s' wedges are not the chunky oversized soles of the 1970s, but more

glamorous sandals with delicately cut-out sides and peep-toes. The Hollywood feel brings brighter metallic colours. Charles Jourdan stitch rich bronze leather to a strong plastic wedge, and Russell and Bromley have a more lightweight look with cut-out shapes and a hint of glitter. Shoes echo the Chanel influence on spring suits. The elegant sling-back is a classic made incomparably by Chanel. The sling-back is also

made by Marilyn Anselm for Hobbs. She has recreated this chic French style with a lightweight co-respondent sling-back in smooth white leather and a shiny toe-cap in red or navy blue. Pied a Terre have also followed suit with a squared-off toe which gives a city-smart look to a soft leather sling-back, shoe tied at the heel with a chic leather bow.

Rebecca Tyrrel

- 1 White leather peep-toe wedge, £45.99, also in green from Russell and Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1
- 2 Bronze metallic leather sandal on a plastic wedge, £59.50, from Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, SW1
- 3 Hollywood style wedge-heeled sandal, £39.99, from Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1
- 4 Chic leather sling-back, £39.99, from Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1
- 5 Classic sling-back with bow detail, £59, from Pied a Terre, 14 Sloane Street, SW1
- 6 Lace-patterned sling-back, £99, from Pied a Terre Rouge, 44 Old Bond Street, W1

Drawings by Michael Davidson

Is this the only kind of bird your children watch?

If so, then you should give them a gift of a year's membership to The Young Ornithologists' Club. It's the junior section of the RSPB, and it will make them look at the birds and wildlife around them with fresh, eager eyes. Not square eyes.



THE TIMES DIARY

Party tricks

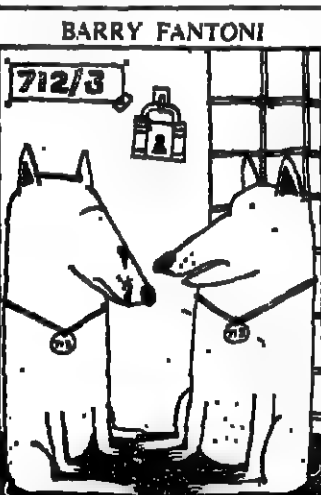
Eleventh-hour Tory protests brought Channel 4's Sunday night documentary *My Britain - David Steel* within a whisker of being pulled off the air. The hour-long programme in which the Liberal leader paraded his personal vision of Britain, at one stage button-holing Derek Hatton, was made by independent producer Justin Cartwright, a former producer of Liberal party political broadcasts. The prospect was too much for one Tory supporter who contacted the IBA after reading a paragraph in *Liberal News* endorsing the programme as the "best party political" ever made. After an emergency viewing and discussions with Channel 4 boss Jeremy Isaacs, the IBA narrowly decided that the programme should be shown. Tory Central Office said yesterday it too had contacted the IBA — to discover, before making a formal complaint, which Tory politician would be given a similar platform. I hope it won't be too upset when I give the answer: Jim Prior.

Deadlock

One of the Worthing brothers who vowed to starve until the local council reversed its decision to close the town's Connaught Theatre was said yesterday to be near death. Michael Wilson is now bedridden and semi-comatose as the two approached their 44th day of fasting. His brother Roy, whose idea it was, himself weighs just over seven stone. "I feel rather bad about the affair now," said Roy. "I recently announced the end of our fast on local radio, but Michael would have none of it." If the fast continues, both could die before the Connaught curtain twitches: the council has delayed any decision on its future until March 6. "It's a tricky situation, but a democratic decision has been taken, and we cannot act under a threat of this kind," a council spokesman said.

But no shells

The day the petrol pumps ran with water will not soon be forgotten at the Hawes Landing Service Station in Edinburgh. No sooner had a customer filled up and driven away than his car broke down. When station manager Brian Clark towed the car in, he found the petrol tank full of sea water. By then six other enraged motorists had broken down, all within a mile of filling up. "It cost me a lot of time and effort overhauling the engines," said Clark, "but most of the customers were happy when I gave them some bonus petrol." Petrol suppliers Unipart, who had pumped 150,000 gallons of ballast sea water into the station's underground tanks, yesterday declined to comment.



BARRY FANTONI
712/3
It's MPs trying to understand the new Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill that I feel sorry for

Age no bar

I would take with a hefty block of roast the notion that Lord Hailsham and the Law Society are at daggers drawn over rights of audience and legal aid fees. On Saturday night, only 24 hours after the Society said it was considering taking the Lord Chancellor to court over the legal aid dispute, its West London branch wined and dined him at a lavish banquet. Far from laying into the man who has confessed devotion to his own branch of the profession, the Bar, the Law Society president, Alan Leslie, went to great lengths to emphasize that their disagreements were "nothing personal". In a wine-curdling show of affection, the Society actually handed Hailsham a Valentine card.

Foreign parts

Scottish geography is not Denis Thatcher's strong suit. Not long ago, on a trip north of the border with his wife, he started his Scottish hosts by making Aberdeen for Dundee. Worse was to come. "I can't understand all the fuss about this place Cardike," mused Denis to all and sundry at the height of the Garcoosh affair.

Here's a tip

Guidance at last for diners at Just Around the Corner, that embarrassing new restaurant on the Finchley Road in London where payment is left to your discretion. Four months after it opened, owner Peter Ilic tells me the most he has received for his six-course meal is £80 and the least £8, left by two girls. "If anything, customers are leaving more than I expected," he says happily.

PHS

Why I could not fight on

Frederik van Zyl Slabbert explains his decision to resign as leader of South Africa's official opposition party

ism, compared to other situations where these problems exist. Apartheid is concrete, demonstrable and unique to South Africa. Apartheid is law. There is a law, the Population Registration Act, that classifies every South African at birth into a particular racial or ethnic group. Another law, the Group Areas Act, allocates residential and other land according to racial and ethnic definitions. In short, apartheid is the most comprehensive system of legalized racial domination, exploitation and racism devised by any government since the war.

Apartheid was the Afrikaner nationalist's attempt to cope with the challenge of postwar decolonization, while maintaining his position of dominance. This dominance is called "self-determination" for the Afrikaners as a group. Afrikaner nationalists have used the bedrock of legalized apartheid as the basis of "self-determination" of other "groups" which they have one-sidedly identified and classified.

By opposing apartheid one is not denying the reality of racial or ethnic groups or the fact that it may be difficult to find a democratic solution for them to live together in the same society. By opposing apartheid one is opposing the right that one racial/ethnic group claims for itself to manipulate racial and ethnic groups to its own advantage, and to the obvious disadvantage of others.

As leader of the official opposition Progressive Federal Party in the South African parliament, I set myself two objectives: to persuade as many whites as possible that apartheid must go, and to negotiate with the government to bring that about. After six years I concluded that although my party had made some headway on the first, I was wasting my time on the second.

The implementation of the new three-chamber parliament (for whites, Indians and "coloureds") was a retrogressive step which entrenched the Population Registration Act. Nevertheless, I was willing to explore whether the government would use it to get rid of old apartheid structures or whether it would use it to extend its logic to new ones. My disillusionment became final when President Botha defined the so-called guidelines within which the excluded black majority could be constitutionally accommodated.

The government has not the slightest intention of abandoning compulsory racial and ethnic group membership as a basis for further constitutional development; on the contrary, that is its fundamental precondition for any reform. Botha did not say that apartheid is dead or is to be abandoned. He said South Africa "has outgrown the outdated concept of apartheid", but not a new modernized concept of apartheid. The "self-determination" of

whites" is still to be preserved by extending and using apartheid as entrenched in the three-chamber parliament. Botha should be taken at his word: concerned people should not read into his reform initiatives that are not there.

Last year I had at least five personal interviews with the president, spoke to several cabinet ministers, and gave evidence to cabinet committees. I explored one question: is the government prepared to restore freedom of choice by repealing segregated residential, educational and political structures?

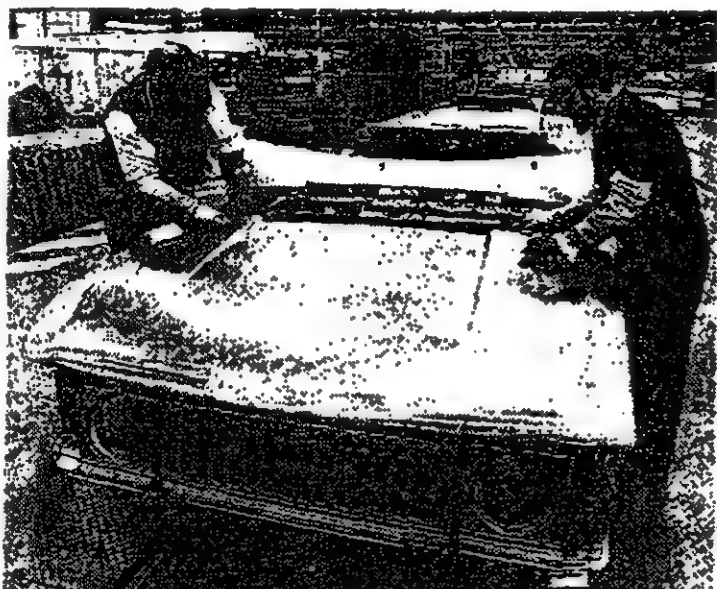
I had one last hope: perhaps the traumatic events of 1985 would somehow bring change. An indication of this would come in the president's speech opening the 1986 session of parliament, and the no-confidence debate which followed. I told a few of my colleagues confidentially that if Botha really shifted on the question of freedom of choice, I saw some reason for continuing in my present role. If not, I had no further initiatives which I could offer my supporters and was wasting their and my time by continuing.

I want to explore other ways of getting rid of apartheid. The leaders of the ANC, Inkatha, United Democratic Front, the Azanian People's Organization and other extra-parliamentary opposition groups are absolutely correct. There can be no negotiations, no stability, no cooperation, as long as the South African government continues with apartheid. Apartheid must go, in every legal sense of the word.

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Iain Carson looks East, not West, for a tie-up that makes sense

BL's best bet for prosperity



Land Rover's production line. The firm could again be a winner if Paul Channon steers it in the right direction

Rover is still fighting GM Vauxhall for second place. Its 17.9 per cent — against GM's rising share of 16.17 per cent — is far behind Ford, the leader, with 26.5 per cent. Despite its bright new models, its newly automated factories at Longbridge and Cowley and its improved labour productivity, Austin Rover has fallen short because its recovery coincided with a tougher British car market. A few years ago GM decided to take on Ford in Europe, where the latter had long been much stronger. Backed by reviving profits in the United States, these two powerful forces started slugging it out — most intensively in Britain — with big discounts to win and defend market shares. Austin Rover was ground between these two international giants.

No one is making money in this battle: in 1984 Ford in Britain incurred an operating loss of £14 million and Vauxhall lost £9.4 million; the latest figure for Austin Rover shows an operating profit of only £600,000 in the first half of 1985. The future looks even tougher. Nissan, loaded with government grants to start car production at Washington, County Durham — on the principle, as a minister told me, that "if you can't beat them, join them" — will produce its first vehicles this summer. If all goes well, it intends to increase production from 300,000 vehicles to 100,000. The immediate target is the fleet market, in which Nissan can qualify as British. (Indeed, with 80 per cent local content they will be more British than Ford Fiestas or Sierras (62 per cent and 75 per cent local content). Next it hopes to export from Britain to other EEC countries.

Changes on the broader European scene favouring an Austin Rover renaissance are unlikely. France's state-owned Renault company, having shed 25,000 jobs in the face of a £1 billion loss last year, will outlive the Eiffel Tower. Despite losses, or at best a pitiful return on capital, none of the other producers is likely to go out of business. Against this bleak landscape, however, there are two developments which suggest that Austin Rover need not be a lost cause. First, the conventional wisdom on the economics of car production is being revised. Not long ago Giovanni Agnelli, head of the Fiat group, said that only car makers producing two million vehicles a year could survive. Now he says the critical figure is about one million. Why the revision?

Agnelli's two million figure was predicated on a continued customer swing towards small, light and economical cars in which price would be a significant factor.

This, it was thought, would favour the international giants making similar cars worldwide. That forecast has turned out to be false. The variety of models seen on any road in the mid-1980s, even in down-at-heel Britain, shows that motorists want more from a car than basic — different permutations of comfort, style and speed. Exit the world car.

Another factor is the fundamental change in car production. Henry Ford's assembly lines were the epitome of contemporary manufacturing techniques — mass production of a few models by an extreme division of labour. Today we are witnessing another revolution: smaller runs of different models without loss of mass production economies. Micro-electronics now make it possible to programme machines to make model A in the morning and model B in the afternoon. This flexible manufacturing system mitigates Austin Rover's puffy scale.

Austin Rover could also benefit from joint development and sharing of components with other producers. It already uses Volkswagen gearboxes in some of its models. But while sharing components means a lesser risk than developing your own, the rewards are also reduced.

Austin Rover could best reduce the risks and capital investment without sacrificing too much profit by further joint development of whole cars with Honda. Smaller than the mighty Toyota and Nissan, Honda desperately needs help to increase its share of the European market. Its cars, more than those of any other Japanese manufacturer, have tended towards European styling: its latest Accord models rival the bottom end of the BMW range.

That is precisely where Austin Rover should be headed — not into outright luxury cars but into fewer models, each of high quality and styling within its category of size — giving up pretensions to compete head-on with the giants in basic volume cars. Paul Channon, the new Industry Secretary, should get on a plane to Tokyo and mend fences, fast. After all, the Japanese today can teach us more about making cars than the Americans.

The author is a reporter and presenter on Channel 4's *The Business Programme*.

Digby Anderson May Thatcher stay outside

During the Westland saga, a journalist wrote that the country was awaiting with "bated breath" the outcome of the following day's Cabinet meeting. So I took particular care to inspect the chaps in the bar at the Royal Albion.

You couldn't actually see from their chests if they were holding their breath because they were so wrapped up, but none was going any redder in the face than usual. There were no sudden exclamations, or other signs of bating. One group was talking about television, another, slightly younger, predictably about each other. It was the same story at the Newport Arms. Oblivious to the crisis, they carried on playing an imported variation of snooker, their breathing totally unaffected.

Trade, which might have been boosted by alcoholic relief of helicopter neurosis, or threatened as hordes deserted the pub to huddle round their home television sets awaiting new "developments", remained as usual. In the butcher, baker and bank, respiration was stoically regular, if subject to a little seasonal wheeze.

A few remarks were overheard expressing joy that the printers had at last got their deserts. Someone wondered why only foreigners — Messrs Murdoch, MacGregor and Edwards — were tough enough to do what so obviously needed to be done, but no one mentioned Westland.

Meanwhile, journalists contrasted the shoddy behaviour by ministers, "indeed all concerned", with the high standards "we expect from government." The contrast is purely rhetorical. No one that I know, except academics and journalists bewitched by their own writing, expects high standards from politicians, indeed expects much at all from politicians. Most subscribe to the *Yes, Prime Minister* view of politicians and their bureaucrats.

While not knowing the precise relationship between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Office portrayed in last week's episode, they are not at all surprised by the general picture of self-seeking, ruddle, popularity consciousness and deviousness which emerges from the series. Nor do they doubt that it is close to reality. The fact that they enjoy watching it while being bored by the real life events it mirrors is not explained by any illusion but the skills of the scriptwriters and, unlike Westland, the brevity of each episode.

A crucial part of Mrs Thatcher grasps and shares this widespread boredom with politicians and disaffection with politicians and their bureaucratic servants. Among the ideas which Thatcherism has drawn on, this is a constant theme. Hayek insists that politicians are, and always will be, essentially ignorant of the increasing number of things they seek to control: the most modest green grocer knows more about his customers' wishes and his suppliers' merits than the bureaucrats and politicians who control Europe's largest employer, the NHS.

Economists of the "public choice" school point out in detail, if less elegantly, the *Yes, Prime Minister* message that politicians and public "servants" are driven

by the same self-seeking that operates in the private sector. Neo-conservatives such as Glazer and Kristol show that the pervasiveness of policy decisions, the way they fail to benefit their apparently intended customer-beneficiaries but enrich their producers, is not just Jim Hacker's problem but one of politicized, bureaucratized decision-making. Why else would the TV series sell to 46 countries with different political systems?

Thatcherism is not just for freely contracted exchanges between individuals (the market); it is against public bureaucracies, the politicization of life, inevitably against politicians. For some, the most attractive thing about Mrs Thatcher has been the way she has remained an outsider, deeply antipathetic to politicians, their system and ambitions, while herself in the supreme political office. Given the pressures, it is remarkable how she has not been corrupted and become another politician, an insider.

Many politicians and journalists have offered her advice on how to recover from the Westland setback. Much of it is about presentation. Some suggest she should rest on her considerable achievements of reducing inflation and trade union reform and coast to the next election. Others, notably Michael Heseltine, want new policies, more intervention.

Heseltine apparently shares the delusion popular with many of Mrs Thatcher's critics, including the authors of the *Archbishop's* report on the main cities, that contemporary Britain, in which more than half the population receive their income from the state as wages or hand-outs, is some sort of extreme laissez-faire society beset with individualism. One wonders what level of collectivization would satisfy them.

Before taking any of that advice, she should weigh not only the economic and immediate political consequences but what it would make of her. No doubt she could appear more compassionate, reasonable, or moderate, but what if the price were that she became another politician, an insider? Then she would lose that constituency which is bored with politics and distrustful of politicians, which snookered and so unabashedly breathed its way through the Westland "crisis". Maybe it's a small group and dispensable: the *Yes, Prime Minister* viewing figures suggest otherwise.

Thanks to the many readers who, after my column of January 7, "Give compassion real conflict", wrote suggesting titles for a TV programme in which welfare lobbyists compete against each other for limited public funds and sympathy. I can only list some of the suggestions and hope a television producer is among the readers. I particularly like *Tragic Choices*, *Tragic Options*, *Compassion Cake*, *Beggar My Neighbour*, *Money for Me or Money for You?*, *Sow's Ear, Opportunity Cakes*, *Unlucky Dip*, *Tough-love Debates*, *For Calls the Kettle Black*, *My Friend Will Pay and Soak the Whitch*.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Bonhomie is the name

There is a new offshoot of Friends of the Earth called The Arts for The Earth (TAFE) which aims to raise funds for ecology by staging artistic events. What kind of events? Well, auctioning a lot of specially donated cartoons, that sort of thing.

That's what they did at Bonham's auction rooms in Knightsbridge the other evening, so I went along to say hello to old cartoonist friends, stare at the old cartoons, and maybe make the odd bid or two, though at the few auctions I have ever been to I have always found it impossible to attract the auctioneer's attention. Well, of course, when they hold up cartoons at auctions you don't see very much (that's what viewing days are for), so my attention wandered to the whispering of the cartoonists round me; not all of it very respectful. One drawing showed a nuclear cooling tower with tulips growing out of the top as if it were a vase.

"Very East European," said Chic Jacob. "Flower in the gun barrel."

"Daffodil growing in concrete," said Ian Heath. "You name it, we put a flower in it."

Another drawing showed a hedgehog making advances to a hairbrush. "There's a novel idea," said Nick Baker. "When was the first hedgehog-hairbrush cartoon, Chic?"

"1890?"

"Late as that, was it?" But most of the cartoons got their approval. Indeed, a *Peanuts* strip by Charles Schulz got a bid of £230 from Ian Heath. It was the winning bid. He looked shaken.

"These Schulz originals are extremely rare," said auctioneer Nicholas Bonham strictly. "That one went very cheap. I hope to get a lot more for the next one."

auctioneer... My God, isn't anyone going to get me out of this, please, somebody bid more than £20, don't let me end up with this...

He also believed in establishing relations with characters in the audience, variously known as The Man At The Back Whose Name I Can't Remember, The Woman At The Front Who Bids For Everything, and My Wife.

"Do you really mean that bid?" he said to the latter, then to the rest of us. "It's my wife, you see. It's not coming out of the house-keeping, you know."

Wife: "You don't give me any housekeeping."

The only person who fazed him at all was The Woman At The Front Who Bid For Everything, who went to £500 for a tiny drawing of a pink hippopotamus. Even Nicholas Bonham felt this might be too high. "My God, that's about £100 a square inch. Are you sure you want to...? You're really bidding £500... You what? Oh, that's all right then. She needs it to complete a pair," he explained.

I suddenly realized that Bonham's technique was very like that of the black gospel preacher: getting the audience excited, hypnotized even, insistently repeating numbers with religious fervour... £80, £80, I want to hear 90, thank you, 90, 100, against you, 100, 100, give me 120, let me hear you say 120, yeah, Lord, I know you can say 120...

He was wonderful. He got the next Charles Schulz up to £700 and the last one off to £2,800, after he had barked down a telephone at a transatlantic bidder, though even Bonham looked vaguely surprised at someone paying £2,800 for a drawing strip. Not half so surprised, though, as Ian Heath. He remembered, had got the early Schulz for £230.

I did make one or two bids myself, but the auctioneer never notices me, not even Nicholas Bonham. But I must get to his next show; it has to be one of the best bits of theatre in the West End.

Mary Dejevsky

سكنا من الاصل

Thatcher outside



1 Pennington Street, London E1. Telephone 01 481 4100

RAPE LAW

It is not simply an impression from sensational headlines that the crime of rape is on the increase. It has also become more brutal. The incidence of rape began to rise in the early sixties after a long period in which it had increased comparatively little, and in the last few years that rise has steepened.

The sharp increase in reported rape cases in the past few years may have something to do with a greater willingness on the part of victims to report rape in the light of greater police sensitivity towards victims. But that does not alter the general picture of a crime that is increasing and that is also one that is "getting nastier" as Detective Chief Superintendent Thelma Wagstaffe of the Metropolitan Police put it recently. In a graphic address to the Howard League she described how rape is now frequently accompanied by acts of deliberate cruelty and defilement, arising from a determination to submit the victim to maximum humiliation.

The public is becoming increasingly anxious both that such crimes should carry their due penalty and that nothing should stand in the way of the detection and apprehension of rapists by the police. After a number of especially horrific cases recently, Home Office Ministers now contemplate abolishing the rule of anonymity which prohibits the public identification of men accused of rape until, and unless, they are found guilty. This was added to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act of 1976, which provides for the anonymity of rape victims, while the Bill was before Parliament, and has undoubtedly led to absurd

anomalies and inequitable situations.

Thus a man accused, say, of rape, and also of sexually assaulting a child in other ways, and who is acquitted of rape but found guilty of the second charge, remains protected by the anonymity rule. He cannot be named in newspapers for the crime of which he is guilty. The same would also apply where a man acquitted of rape was found guilty of other, non-sexual, serious offences.

This kind of absurdity has been criticized by the Criminal Law Revision Committee, and was also described as "extraordinary" by Mr David Mellor, the Home Office Parliamentary Secretary, when he spoke in a Commons debate on rape in November. What is more, if the concern is to protect the reputation of a man accused of rape who is eventually found not guilty, the same argument could be used in respect of other hardly less heinous crimes of violence in respect of which the accused has to face the full glare of publicity before a verdict is reached. The only case in logic for the rule has been that anonymity for the victim (who is also the accuser) should be matched with anonymity for the man charged, not least because a number of rape cases arise from encounters between people known to each other, in which the facts may be highly doubtful.

The dominant case for a change in the rule, however, does not hang on the unfairness with which particular accused persons are dealt with in terms of publicity. It rests on the growing belief that, as a result of the anonymity rule, the police do, on occasions, feel inhibited in their search for and apprehension of suspected rapists. In a recent case,

the Wiltshire police felt constrained from publishing the photograph of a suspect rapist, or from naming him, during the search because he was already suspected of another earlier rape. In fact, since no charge had been preferred with regard to the first crime, it appears that the police would, according to the letter of the law, have been entitled to publish the photograph of the wanted man, and give his name, in connection with the second. But it is also a question of the spirit of the law.

In searching for any suspected criminal, the police have to be careful not to prejudice trial by publishing photographs and giving names. They only resort to both when the public interest warrants it, which means when all other methods have failed or when there is a danger to the public. In theory, they are as free to pursue this course with rapists as with other criminals, however strange it may seem that a suspected rapist can be named (usually as wanted for questioning about a "serious offence") while the search is on but cannot be named in the court. The fact remains that they are often confused by the anonymity rule, and fear to take any step which may be said later to have prejudiced a fair trial. Their fear is evidenced by cases in which they feel able to say that a suspect is wanted for a murder, suppressing the fact that he is also wanted for rape. It is no doubt true that the removal of the anonymity rule would lead to some hard cases. But the general truth that hard cases tend to make for bad law clearly seems to operate in regard to the anonymity rule for suspected rapists. The Home Office ministers are right to have begun the process of changing it.

When the centre was founded in 1970 the MRC deliberately chose to site it alongside a district general hospital, since they envisaged not only that the centre would fulfil a national role but also that the research workers would be brought into direct touch with the everyday problems of disease as manifested in the community. The research workers and clinicians have had very considerable success in applying the scientific method to disorders such as schizophrenia, obesity, alcohol abuse, the biology of blood vessels, infectious diseases, diarrhoeal illnesses and to allergy and disorders as banal as the common cold. For the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury is an important outstation of the centre. It is not true to say that the beds

Taking care of inner cities

From Mr Laurence Trackman
Sir, For the last two years I have been involved in establishing a small business centre in St Paul's, Bristol, specifically for the benefit of local young people. Our organisation, recognised by central Government as a local enterprise agency, has now virtually completed the development of the £300,000 business centre without any specific central Government support, relying instead on the two local authorities and the far-sightedness of the local private sector.

With a Manpower Services Commission community programme we have employed 25 local long-term unemployed young people to undertake most of the building work and have put just under £100,000 of earned income back into St Paul's.

My experience in working on this project has led me to realise that many inner-city young people are consumed with bitterness towards a system that has stripped them of self-esteem and hope, and for them the worst of that system is represented on a day-to-day basis by the police.

On Friday in St Paul's I conducted a business-counselling session with two young black women who hope to start a restaurant in the area. With the right support they are perfectly capable of succeeding. As we talked a rank of police vehicles formed outside my window. In the "serious incident" which followed (report, February 8) a police car was destroyed and two policemen

were hospitalised as a result of the attempted arrest of a car thief.

We must hope that, with the announcement (report, February 7) of the inner-city task forces, the Home Office recognises the crucial part it plays in influencing the way inner-city young people regard the world around them. If police are seen as representing a system that has clearly failed, then they must also be seen to be involved in the regeneration of those inner-city economies.

My repeated requests to local police chiefs and to the Home Office for their constructive involvement in initiatives of socio-economic development such as ours have so far met with little interest, yet a policy, for example, of using their considerable purchasing power to support and develop up-and-coming inner-city small businesses could have far-reaching effects both economically and in terms of human relations.

It is clear that the situation in the inner cities has now reached a watershed. Policing methods in the inner city are also at a watershed. Law and order in Britain is something more sophisticated than simply a state of not burning police cars.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE TRACKMAN,
Director and General Manager,
The Coach House Small Business Centre,
2 Upper Park Street,
St Paul's, Bristol,
Avon.
February 10.

Clinical research

From the Director of the Clinical Research Centre
Sir, Sir Michael Stoker's committee on the Clinical Research Centre has made recommendations to the Medical Research Council (report, February 5) which are far-reaching, imaginative and in the best interests of clinical research in this country. His proposals that the centre should be merged with the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and that basic science and clinical research should be brought together by moving the National Institute for Medical Research to the same site are warmly welcomed by the centre's staff.

When the centre was founded in 1970 the MRC deliberately chose to site it alongside a district general hospital, since they envisaged not only that the centre would fulfil a national role but also that the research workers would be brought into direct touch with the everyday problems of disease as manifested in the community. The research workers and clinicians have had very considerable success in applying the scientific method to disorders such as schizophrenia, obesity, alcohol abuse, the biology of blood vessels, infectious diseases, diarrhoeal illnesses and to allergy and disorders as banal as the common cold. For the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury is an important outstation of the centre. It is not true to say that the beds

at Northwick Park Hospital designated for research have not been fully used. The reason why research workers have used these beds in caring for patients from the local community has been to ensure that our clinical research staff should be brought into direct contact with the everyday problems of medicine, so that they keep their investigative feet firmly on the ground.

The Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, on the other hand, has evolved an approach to medicine that is entirely different but totally complementary to that of the Clinical Research Centre at Northwick Park. It has built up a formidable reputation for work in highly specialised areas of medicine, for example open-heart surgery, transplantation, the treatment of leukaemia, and imaging techniques.

In bringing together the excellence of the Clinical Research Centre's work in studies of important problems in the community and the high technology approach of Hammersmith the council will be creating a national centre for clinical research which will be unrivalled in western Europe.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOTH,
Director,
Clinical Research Centre,
Watford Road,
Harrow,
Middlesex,
February 7.

Traitors in 1940

From Brigadier B. Chichester-Cooke
Sir, It would be said if your report today (February 11) lent credence to the idea that Kent was traitor-ridden in 1940. If memory serves me right, Claude Lardet did not command Kent, but the 56th (London TA) Division, which was quartered at that time in East Kent.

He was one of a small group of senior officers who were convinced that Germany had, over the years, built up in Britain a highly trained organization of traitors, saboteurs, and ill-disposed persons who, on the word, would shoot up the air defence personnel and disable their equipment, and immobilise and contain the ground forces, to allow the unopposed landing of fleets of tanks at Folkestone to romp up the A2 to London in two hours, instead of a wasteful frontal attack.

At the time I was commanding a fair slice of the AA defences in Biggin Hill sector with detachments all over Kent and I well remember Claude sending the late Brigadier Guy Portman to persuade me to join in the hunt for "these vermin".

It was my contrary view that at

that moment every able-bodied person in Kent had embraced the newly formed Local Defence Volunteers and, with enormous zeal, armed with an armband and a 12-bore and whipped up by all this "traitor" talk, was making movement, especially at night, almost impossible.

I never discovered who it was that Claude wanted to look up, but I suspect it included some of the farmers and landowners who attacked him strongly because his troops entered their lands and buildings searching for illicit renegade crops and letting out livestock.

If there were any pro-enemy incidents, I cannot find anyone who has heard about them. In contrast, the sheep farmers of Kent and the Romney Marsh readily allowed millions of sheep to be removed to deny an invading force a meat supply. It broke their hearts and ruined their flocks as well as many of themselves. But they did it.

Yours faithfully,
B. CHICHESTER-COOKE,
Hammond Place,
Upton,
Rochester,
Kent,
February 11.

GCSE examination

From Mr Steven Bending
Sir, You have reported (February 7) that the new GCSE examination which will replace the CSE and O level systems is to go ahead despite the boycott by the two main teaching unions. I would suggest that the success or failure of the GCSE will have little to do with the teachers' dispute.

So far the training programme, at a cost of £8 million, has proceeded without most final draft syllabuses being made available because they have not yet been agreed upon. Furthermore, the proposed syllabuses for the colleges are not to be published until May, 1987, we are told.

For geography, as an example, the Midlands examining group is proposing to offer five different syllabuses, of which four are not available.

The question arises as to how teachers are supposed to train for syllabuses they have not yet seen and prepare the necessary materials and in many cases buy new text books. This process alone will take

more time than has been made available.

Grade-related criteria marking, which is a key component, is not to be introduced until 1990 and it is highly questionable as to whether the GCSE will put less emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge. The system will still maintain three pass grades and no doubt pupils, parents and employers will not understand that grades D to G will be acceptable results.

It seems that Sir Keith Joseph's undue haste in pushing forward the GCSE will result in a certain amount of muddling through which is hardly conducive to improving educational standards, and the exam is becoming just another abbreviation to add to CSE, O levels, CPVE, B/TEC, VTS, to name but a few, that teachers, parents and employers are supposed to understand.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN BENDING,
5 Yarnmingle,
Harwood Grove,
Shirley,
Solihi,
West Midlands,
February 7.

No decline in Tory position

From Sir Alan Percival, QC, MP
For Southport (Conservative)
Sir, "Informed sources" have been chattering away for weeks about a supposed decline in Conservative popularity and their explanations of this presumed event. Have they perhaps spent more time listening to one another than looking at the facts?

A Gallup Poll last week showed no change in the Conservative share of the poll between January and February, and the MORI poll published in *The Sunday Times* today (February 16) confirmed this and showed a remarkable consistency.

In the last MORI poll before Mr Heseltine resigned the Conservative share was 33 per cent; one of Mr Heseltine and Mr Brittan gave our share as 33 per cent, and the latest one, completed on February 12, gave us the same 33 per cent.

Surely it must now be clear to all that the public are more interested in good government than in Westland. And all credit to them for that, for withstanding the barrage to which they have been subjected, and for showing that the suggestion of a precipitous fall in the popularity of the Government or of the Prime Minister is something in the minds of the commentators and the wishful thinking of her enemies, not fact.

The remarkable fact is how steady support for both has remained despite all recent onslaughts.

Yours etc.,
IAN PERCIVAL,
House of Commons,
February 16.

Green belt pressures

From Mr Arnold Whittick
Sir, There is one simple solution to the problems of the pressure of population at Crawley and the shortage of houses mentioned by William Greaves in his article on "The green and pleasant boom town" (February 7). The solution is, build another new town in the region. That mentioned by Sir Peter Hordern, although in the right direction, does not go far enough.

Another new town with a maximum population of about 50,000, either at Billingshurst or Pulborough, both served by British Rail, in my view, the solution. There may be opposition among the residents of these towns, but then there is always opposition among some residents to such proposals.

The opportunity to do this was missed when the Government was considering the expansion of Crawley in 1966 in response to representations of industry. I asked Lord Greenwood, who was then Minister of Housing and Local Government, why the ministry did not designate another new town in the region and he replied that it was less costly to expand Crawley than to build another new town.

The result was the addition to Crawley of two more large neighbourhoods, Broadfield and Bewbush, both of which spread across the originally planned green belt. This was contrary to the original concept, which was to limit the size of the town in the interests of its inhabitants and, when nearing completion, to designate another town in the region. It is not too late to do this.

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD WHITTICK,
4 Netherwood,
Gossops Green,
Crawley,
West Sussex,
February 12.

'Positive' scoring

From Mr A. J. D. Ferguson
Sir, The evidence of the rugby internationals played so far this season underlines the need to review the scoring system. In Saturday's Scotland/Wales match, for example, Scotland scored three tries to one yet lost because of the five penalty goals scored by Wales - admittedly superbly kicked.

In effect the efforts of 28 players on the field could be discarded for ten-minute "kick-out" between the two full-backs.

I would suggest that one way of restoring the importance of "positive" scoring through tries and dropped goals would be to introduce a distinction between penalties for deliberate physical fouls and those for accidental or technical infringements.

The penalty for a deliberate physical foul would, as at present, allow for a direct goal attempt and attract three points, whereas an accidental or technical foul would result in an indirect free kick, with no direct kick at goal permitted.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. D. FERGUSON,
Mundy's Hill,
Shere Road,
Ewhurst,
Surrey,
February 5.

Meaningful terms

From Dr Janet Welch
Sir, "Egress" was once a crowd puller. In the 1840s Barnum's museum was so popular that people would not leave. He solved the problem by posting signs advertising a star attraction. They read, "to the Egress".

Yours faithfully,
JANET WELCH,
61 Narbonne Avenue, SW4,
February 8.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 18 1905

The year 1905 saw Russia beset on its front at home by workers in open revolt against oppression and autocracy; abroad by its losses in the Russo-Japanese war. In January about 1,000 people had been killed in front of the Winter Palace when troops fired on a defenceless crowd. In retaliation the Czar's uncle the Grand Duke Sergei was assassinated.

GRAND DUKE SERGE KILLED BY A BOMB. ARREST OF THE MURDERERS.

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17.

At Moscow to-day, as the Grand Duke Sergei was driving in the direction of the Kremlin Palace from the Historical Museum, he was assassinated...

Further details have been received regarding the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergei in Moscow.

His Imperial Highness was driving from the Nicholas Palace through the Senate Square at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Behind his carriage came two cabs. At the Law Courts a sledge in which two men were seated, one of them dressed like a workman, shot out ahead of the Grand Duke's carriage. It then slowed up and allowed the latter to pass. At this moment a bomb was thrown beneath the carriage. The explosion was so great that all the windows in the Law Courts were smashed, and the report was heard outside the city.

The carriage was blown to pieces, nothing but the four wheels remaining. The horses were unhurt, and bowed.

The Grand Duke Sergei was killed instantaneously, his head and limbs being torn from the body. The driver was so seriously injured and otherwise injured that he died on the way to the hospital. The murderers were at once arrested. Their names are not known. One of them coolly remarked, "I don't care. I have done my job".

At the moment of the explosion the Grand Duke Sergei was at the Kremlin, engaged in superintending work for the wounded in the war. She was about to proceed to the house of the Governor-General, where she intended to join her husband, and her carriage was waiting outside the Kremlin.

After the explosion a policeman observed a man running from the scene of the murder, and, in spite of the fact that the man carried a revolver, succeeded in overtaking and arresting him. The man did not attempt to deny that he was the assassin, and explained that the revolver was intended to hinder his arrest.

WOMEN'S APPEAL TO THE TSARITSA.

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17

The women of Moscow have forwarded the following address, bearing a large number of signatures, to the Empress Alexandra:

We Russian women - mothers, wives, and sisters of the warriors who are shedding their blood in the Far East for the beloved fatherland - address ourselves to you, O Sovereign, believing that, with your mother's heart you feel all the horrors of war as we do. You will understand that a woman ardently desires peace. Peace is being violated, not only beyond the frontiers of our country, but even in the heart of the fatherland. We see with terror in the recent troubles the beginning of calamities that may crush all Russia if the Emperor does not seek, in unity with his people, to avert them. All the bones of life are shaken and all moral foundations are trembling. Mothers, those who have to bring up the young generation, are saddened and their task is made impossible. It is beyond their power, beyond all possibility, to train children up on bases of unshakable truth and love of duty when the social life of the country does not rest on these for its foundation. The youth of the country entering life constantly meet contradictions to what was taught them in their families. They thus lose all faith in the principles taught them, seek new faiths, and fall into extremes. Our best forces are perishing. Mothers' hearts are breaking. They cannot remain silent. They feel that many more lives will be sacrificed for what is happening is not spontaneous, but the result of evil calamities. The Emperor can still save Russia by his puissant will. Be our pleader and pray the Emperor that he may listen to the voice of the country and the cry of its mothers. If the Emperor leads the country into the paths of greatness, its women will help in the work of its organization by guiding their brothers and children into the new way and a life of light.

THE RUSSIAN UNREST.

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17

The strike is now rapidly extending. At 4 o'clock this afternoon the men employed at the Neva Thread Works, numbering 2,400, joined the movement.

Winter's tale

From the Reverend John W. Latham

Sir, Some of the coldest temperatures recorded in England recently have not been in Kent, as reported by you on February 11, but here in Flore, where, at 7.45 am on February 10, the temperature in a garden protected by a hedge in a tree-protected low-lying area was 4°F. On January 17, 1985, the temperature was 2°F, again lower than anything reported elsewhere.

This is a very climatically favoured area but when we go to extremes, we go to extremes. Yours faithfully,
J. W. LATHAM,
The Vicarage,
Flore, Northampton.

THE ARTS

Television
Memory matters

Horizon (BBC2) was devoted to an examination of scientific "truth", by substantially scientific methods. The aim was to demonstrate that science is not so much a matter of discovering absolute truths about our universe as of placing the results of experiments in the context of the conventional wisdom of our time.

The producer, Hilary Lawson, began by demonstrating that human visual perception is a process of relating the data transmitted by the optic nerve to existing concepts in our memory. The final proof of this theory was a retired company director who had suffered brain damage during a routine hospital operation. His sight was perfect; the mental faculty which he lacked was the store of concepts with which to make sense of what he saw. As a result he could get lost within 10 yards of his home, and could make no sense at all of a picture of a Christmas tree.

Leaving the programme then went on to look at the circumstances surrounding two classic scientific discoveries. Galileo's proof of the rotation of the earth was swiftly demonstrated to have been meaningless to his contemporaries, who simply chose to believe information which accorded with their own consensus of opinion.

Einstein's theory of relativity was also named as an idea which appealed to the spirit of its age, and which was adopted in the face of conflicting evidence. We then passed some time with two teams of scientists who were hunting the quark, with varying degrees of success and increasing mutual distrust. Scientific experiment, it was suggested, could often be simply a way of rigging the evidence.

These were enthralling arguments which could generate a stimulating sixth-form debate and tax more mature intellects with their implications. However, so prosaic that the programme would have wiped the floor with Marcel Marceau at that hypothetical contest devised by *The Goodies*. The *Monty Python* Festival of Boring, instead of demanding "whether knowledge?" or "whether society?", the viewer was unfairly tempted to wish it would all just wither away.

Celia Brayfield

Galleries

English simplicity
born of diversityJulian Trevelyan
Watermans Art Centre,
BrentfordReg Gammon
New Grafton GalleryJoseph Wright of
Derby: Mr and Mrs
Coltman
National GalleryPrints and Drawings:
Five Years of
Collecting
British Museum

February is the cruellest month for artists. Short and dark, it effectively ensures that their month-long gallery shows last in practice a bare three weeks, and the work that is on show seldom if ever gets seen by natural light. As against that, the prevailing gloom does tend to favour bright, colourful art, and there is already a faint feeling, after the psychological hiatus of the Christmas/New Year holidays, that something is again beginning to stir. Thus, while Julian Trevelyan could quite possibly have asked for a better time to have his first retrospective, at the Watermans Art Centre, Brentford, until the end of the week (after which it tours), he could certainly have had a worse one for the advantageous display of his particular gifts.

The first impression of Trevelyan, based on his most recent work, is that he is a rather cosy, easy-to-take, parochial artist, painting away, mostly around west London, at his dazzlingly simple, sophisticated-primitive landscapes. The big thing this retrospective demonstrates is that the apparent simplicity has not come easily. Nor has the very local, English quality arrived through ignorance or lack of interest in what has been going on artistically elsewhere in the world.

Indeed, he began wearing his cosmopolitanism on his sleeve: the abstracts of the Thirties proclaim him Klee's most enthusiastic English disciple, with their knowing scribbles of circles and stars and triangles, as though speaking to us in pictograms we can almost but not quite understand. With the onset of the Forties he did not, like others of his generation (he was born in 1910) turn his back completely on modernism, though he was inevitably influenced by the Neo-Romantic melancholy of the *Zeitgeist*: the anguish of paintings like *Premontions of the Blitz* is suffused

by an acute awareness of German Expressionism, of Continental Surrealist practice, and probably of the Picasso of *Guernica*.

So many and diverse influences might well produce stylistic chaos, and it is not easy to explain why they do not — or not quite. Perhaps the key work here is *Seagull* (1945), which amazingly combines delight in the English landscape with a surrealist eye for bizarre detail, present in Neo-Romantic profusion, and the sheer hard thinking required to keep such a composition from falling to pieces before our eyes. Trevelyan is clearly an intensely intelligent artist: his questing mind may take him off in what ought to be a confusing number of different directions, but it also provides him with the confidence to assume that whatever style he decides to try is bound to relate to some unseen hub in his work — the same person is, after all, always there wielding the brush. Maybe he is not a major artist of his generation, but, engagingly, he does not claim to be. Unmistakably he just enjoys being an artist, exploring the manifold possibilities of paint, and a naturally sunny disposition illuminates all.

Reg Gammon has had to wait a lot longer, not for a retrospective but just for a one-man London show. Still, now he has made it, at the age of 92, with a really exciting introduction (until the end of the week) at the New Grafton Gallery, late of Bond Street, now of Church Road, Barnes. He is not entirely an unknown quantity: he has been a professional artist since he was apprenticed to the black-and-white illustrator Frank Patterson in 1911, and has exhibited widely in Wales and the West; by a curious coincidence he was brought to the attention of his London gallery by Julian Trevelyan's painter wife Mary Fedden.

For all his beginning in black-and-white, Gammon is a very painterly painter, as well as a prolific one: all the oils and watercolours in this show have been painted in his nineties. With few exceptions they are landscapes, usually with figures and sometimes dominated by figures. The watercolours are proficient but somewhat ordinary. Not so the oils, which have an extraordinary and not entirely explicable smouldering intensity. His firming or crofting scenes in the west of Ireland, Normandy or Brittany are transfigured by a breathtaking intensity of colour, with a particular delight in burning reds and acid greens which have not been applied to such subjects with such enthusiasm since Gauguin and Die Brücke.

It is perhaps late to make our first acquaintance with such a distinctive talent but, if the sheer energy with which he tackles the canvas is anything to go by, we should have plenty of time for more detailed



Quintessentially English, but attractive across the Channel nevertheless: Joseph Wright of Derby's *Mr and Mrs Coltman* at the National Gallery

knowledge. To any suggestion that this show might be merely a flash in the pan, one can with confidence counter that it will be really fascinating to see what he is painting in twenty years.

The current crop of new museum shows brings a number of unexpected and in the main unpretentious delights. At the National Gallery the latest "Acquisition in Focus" show (until April 27) concentrates on Joseph Wright of Derby's *Mr and Mrs Coltman*, a quintessentially English composition of two figures, she on horseback, he standing beside her, in a landscape with a vaguely indicated country house, modest rather than stately, in the background. It is not the sort of painting Wright is best remembered for, though it seems likely that the same couple, friends of the painter, also figure in one of those *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump*, which is at present in the Tate Gallery but will return to the National (to which it was originally bequeathed) this autumn.

That, of course, is one of Wright's virtuoso plays with dramatic illumination in a darkened room. *Mr and Mrs Coltman*, acquired in 1984, is in much the same tradition as Gainsborough's *Mr and Mrs Andrews*, and stirs British sensibilities in the same sort of way. But not British alone, it would appear: I am told that recent enquiries as to what the French

would like in Paris to follow the Gainsborough. Turner and Reynolds exhibitions received the unanimous and enthusiastic answer — Joseph Wright of Derby.

Meanwhile the British Museum's Department of Prints and Drawings has, as is its wont, produced with the utmost nonchalance a staggering cull from its acquisitions of the last five years (on show until May 4), headed in public fame no doubt by the Palmer watercolour *A Cornfield by Moonlight with the Evening Star* — just the sort of thing, surely, that concerns for the National Heritage can legitimately be about, and well worth all the concern and money lavished on its retention for the nation. But there are also wonderful Pre-Raphaelite drawings, a complete sketchbook by the recently rediscovered 18th-century Welsh landscapist Thomas Jones, one of the earliest known monotypes (by Castiglione) and some superb 20th-century German drawings and prints, ranging from Paula Modersohn-Becker to Anselm Kiefer.

It is also notable that a handful of the more remarkable exhibits — the Castiglione monotype, a Rembrandt drawing — come from the Chatsworth sale: a salutary reminder that, whatever opportunities the national collections may be able to grasp, like the Palmer, there are still all too many chances which are just beyond their resources and have to be let slip.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre

Sisterhood at last
finds its OrtonThe Rug of
Identity
Oval House

Theatre should ever be thus: the first night delayed for 20 minutes to allow a crucial prop (a lavatory pedestal) to be mended; an exotic audience putting their feet through disconcerting gaps in the tiered flooring; a programme which invites the reader to describe a sex-change operation in three words or less; a junk stage-set with loopy sightlines; all this, and one of the most sublimely ludicrous plays I have ever sat still for.

Jill W. Fleming's preposterous lesbian romp concerns a problematical cat's-cradle of a set-up between two young women and their outrageous mothers. These columns are not the place to spell out the finer wrinkles of Miss Fleming's plot, nor to retail her funnier one-liners; suffice it to say that she has written a brilliant entertainment for some of the family.

Joanna, an earnestly harrowed writer of paperback nasties, visits her smart, soignée mother in the condemned cell (where, naturally, she has been conducting an affair with the wardress), only to be told the awful truth of her parentage: "Your father was a lavatory seat". Joanna suffers a further shock when her mother reveals that she

homicide for which she is about to swing was merely the last in a considerable series which, in the guise of recycled bedtime stories, provided her daughter with the plots of her books.

We now move to a rickety flat shared by Laurie, a dress-designer, and her tailor's dummy. Enter her walking nightmare of a mother, Mrs Proctor, a tubby bottle-blond in a man's suit who has been thrown out by her son (she arranged for his fiancée to be murdered) and now plans to impose on Laurie. Arriving in distress after being mugged, Joanna vomits into Mrs Proctor's hat: the latter attempts to throttle the dummy before swanking out on the town.

All this is achieved with gloriously filthy dead-pan jokes with innocent-sounding snippets of "normal" conversation. Parts of the script urgently need tidying up, which may become more obvious when Jude Alderson's production gets into its stride, but it already sizzles with wit and panache.

The Hard Corps company are Heather Gilmore, Debby Klein, Sarah McNair, Cathy Kicoyne and Karen Parker. A few weeks ago I roundly declared that the sisterhood were "still waiting for their own Joe Orton to materialize". I was not then aware of Jill W. Fleming.

Martin Cropper

Goat
Croydon Warehouse

The most deleterious aspect of life in the shadow of the Bomb is not the angst supposedly attendant on the threat of global immolation but the poverty of comment to which this predicament gives rise. It is almost as if the fictional treatment of the theme held some special magnetic allure for our duller playwrights. This effort by Louise Page with which Paines Plough (The Writers' Company) has been touring is prolix, misconceived, confused and confusing.

We find ourselves in a biochemistry laboratory in a high-security installation where Alice, a research scientist specializing in the decay of the alimentary canal after irradiation, has been summoned to conduct a controlled experiment over the course of a weekend. The ostensible subject of her inquiry (*capra hircus*, the ruminant quadruped of the title) is tethered, conceptually, in the audience, enabling Alice to address her 80-minute monologue to us as if we ourselves were dumb scalpel-fodder.

This improbable set-up is rendered well-nigh incredible by the author's failure to characterize her single protagonist. Raised on a council estate, the daughter of a butcher (nudge-nudge), Alice

has a niece named Tracey and calls the lavatory "the toilet" — accurate enough as far as it goes, but she is also given to quoting William Blake and frequently descends (or perhaps rises) to pamphleteering in her sporadic attempts to see the world in a grain of cliché.

The script's un-ear-candances are complemented by a form of imaginative tunnel-vision which reaches its nadir when the idealistic researcher, recalling her ambition to discover a cure for radiation sickness, describes a nuclear-winter dream in which she addresses an audience of corpses: "Because they're even skulls, they couldn't even smile". Unhappy skulls, incapable even of rictus.

One presumes that Miss Page's purpose in writing this propionic jumble was to stimulate debate on "the issues", to raise questions. Well, here are some questions. What are the external forces that keep Alice penned to her laboratory for the course of the weekend which (apparently) witnesses a nuclear explosion? What prevents her communicating with the outside world? Is her attendance for this experiment to be seen (God forbid) as a metaphor for women's subservience?

And, lastly, what are Carole Harrison, a perfectly competent actress, and Pip Broughton, one of our more capable directors, doing here?

M.C.

Concerts

Right to the Russian heart

LSO/
Rozhdestvensky
Barbican

With the cantata *Alexander Nevsky*, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky reached the Russian heart of his four-concert series with the London Symphony Orchestra. A compatriot like Yevgeny Svetlanov may well, judging from his last memorable London performance, have transported his audience back to the Moscow Studio where Prokofiev first worked on his film score with Eisenstein: setting the score's black against its white, emphasizing its savage cross-cutting of rhythmic blocks and the merging of its instrumental montage. Rozhdestvensky chose to do otherwise.

This performance glorified in Prokofiev's rearrangement of the score for the concert hall. Taking full account of the even broader spread of sound created by the orchestra's necessarily wide, shallow positioning on the Barbican platform, the conductor chose leisurely tempi and sturdy rather than incisive massing of his forces in the big choral numbers (valiantly sung by the London Symphony Chorus). He concentrated, too, on the spread of resonance from horn and trombone rather than the searing collisions with which Prokofiev had staged-managed his ice battle. It made for a thrilling rather

than a chilling performance, apart, that is, from Alfreda Hodgson's tenderly phrased solo in "The Field of the Dead".

The first half of the evening was dominated, literally, by Viktoria Posnikova's hugely grandiloquent performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1. In its ponderous, striding chords and octaves and its lurching, heavily languid rubato, it was very much the pianistic equivalent of the grand operatic style of a Dimitrova or an Arshipova. But taming a more effete western ear to its scale was not the whole story, nor the entire solution.

For, as the slow movement so tellingly revealed, it was the narcissism of the performance, its obsession with an entirely solo-orientated acoustic fantasy, which weakened its superficial strength. By forcing the orchestra to match its inflated proportions, it was a performance which accused the work itself of self-indulgence.

Hilary Finch

ECO/Barenboim
Festival Hall

With the English Chamber Orchestra, in the early 1960s, Daniel Barenboim not only laid the foundations of his own dazzling dual career but in the process pioneered the (now well subscribed) occupa-

tion of "conductor/pianist". Twenty years on, the partnership between orchestra and pianist is still rather special, as these performances of Beethoven's First and Second Concertos demonstrated.

The key to their long-lasting concord must lie in the ECO's fine-tuned response to Barenboim's varied, ever-probing musicianship. His majestic fluency in the allegros of both concertos, and his perfect judgement of the weight that each passing *sforzando* of No 2's finale needs in its context, all attested to his undimmed virtuosity. The preservation of this technical quality is all the more remarkable because Barenboim now surely has little time in his crowded schedule for the daily digital drudgery which many concert pianists consider a necessary chore.

More extraordinary still is his instinct for coaxing half-hidden meanings from the music. The sparky thrust of his passage-work was, time and again, offset by subdued, even slightly sad, touches a marked slowing-down in No 2's first movement so that the mystery of the remote D flat and G flat excursions could be savoured, for instance. His cadenzas were complex kaleidoscopes of fleeting moods, but perhaps the afternoon's most magical moment was his simplest: the ending of No 2's slow movement where the poignancy of Barenboim's phrasing (and his exactly measured pedalling) in the unaccompanied right-



Daniel Barenboim: special relationship with the ECO

hand "recitative" created a perceptible tension throughout the packed hall.

The orchestra, alert and sympathetic but understandingly taking a supporting role in the concertos, had earlier offered a spacious account of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony, No 35. Rather than beating time conventionally Barenboim conducted the whole work by indicating the stress-points and required shading of phrases: a sophisticated approach which indirectly complemented the ECO's unshakable rapport, but which did produce the occasional dynamic extravagance.

Richard Morrison

BBCSO/
Pritchard
Barbican

It is difficult for a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony to fail; surely nothing could that ends with such a positive, uplifting affirmation. Nevertheless it takes something special to help it transcend its proper proportions. Sir John Pritchard, directing the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the London Philharmonic Choir, managed it on Sunday, however, and those who wish to confirm or deny that view can listen to his results tonight on Radio 3.

The secret of Sir John's performance lay in his pacing, most crucially perhaps in the stormy funeral march of the first movement. It did not matter that here the players were not always unanimous in those rushing C minor flurries, nor even that the tempo sometimes erred marginally on the careful side, for the argument remained intense throughout, and death was absolute.

But, in the pastures of the

Nash Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

Each time I hear Webern's arrangement for the *Pierrot Lunaire* ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony, Op 9, I become more convinced that the result is an improvement even upon the marvellous original. The reason lies not simply in the greater clarity offered by the reduced forces, nor in the urgency given to the score through the increased demand upon each player, but simply through the presence of the piano. For, where Schoenberg's 10 wind and five string instruments tend to fuse the music's complexities into a rather luscious whole, the piano's percussiveness lends it as well as transparency to the work; the rest of the ensemble's contributions also emerge with greater force.

Such, anyway, was the impression given by the Nash Ensemble's magnificent reading in the latest concert of their "Austro-German Romantic" series. If Webern's version does have a fault, it is that the work can sound messy simply through being so technically demanding. Yet there was never the slightest suspicion here that each performer had done anything less than wholly master his or her part.

BBCSO/
Pritchard
Barbican

second movement, Sir John's pristine control of rhythm and speed was such that the pizzicato repeat of the first section came close to being a parody of itself. If that was the intention, it would have to be counted a mistake, for there is nothing about the atmosphere there or in the Scherzo to make anyone believe that Mahler was being other than perfectly straightforward, despite the burlesques and the screaming E flat clarinets in the latter movement. How else to approach the agonizing spiritual purity of the succeeding "Urlicht"? There Felicity Palmer and the trumpets and horns were in firm emotional and technical control.

And then came that wondrous finale, in which Miss Palmer, Felicity Lott and the two splendid choirs really did transport us to other worlds, aided by orchestral playing of impressive warmth and nobility. The brass section never faltered; the woodwind and strings were nearly as perfect; and Sir John was masterful in his expansive treatment of this glorious music.

Stephen Pettitt

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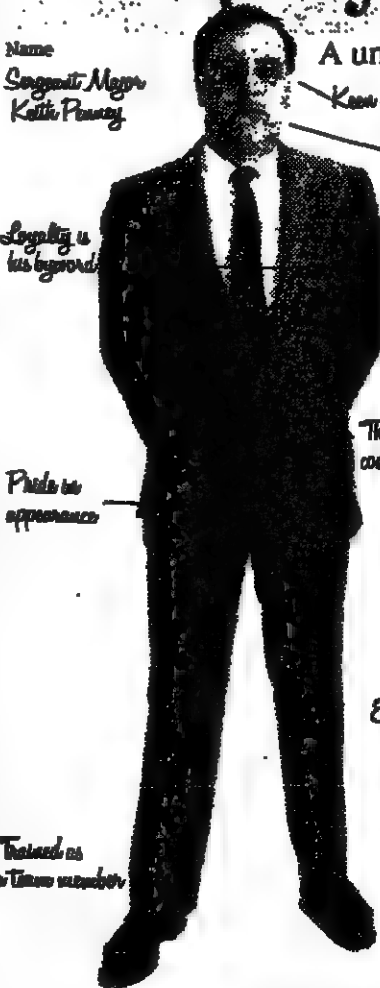
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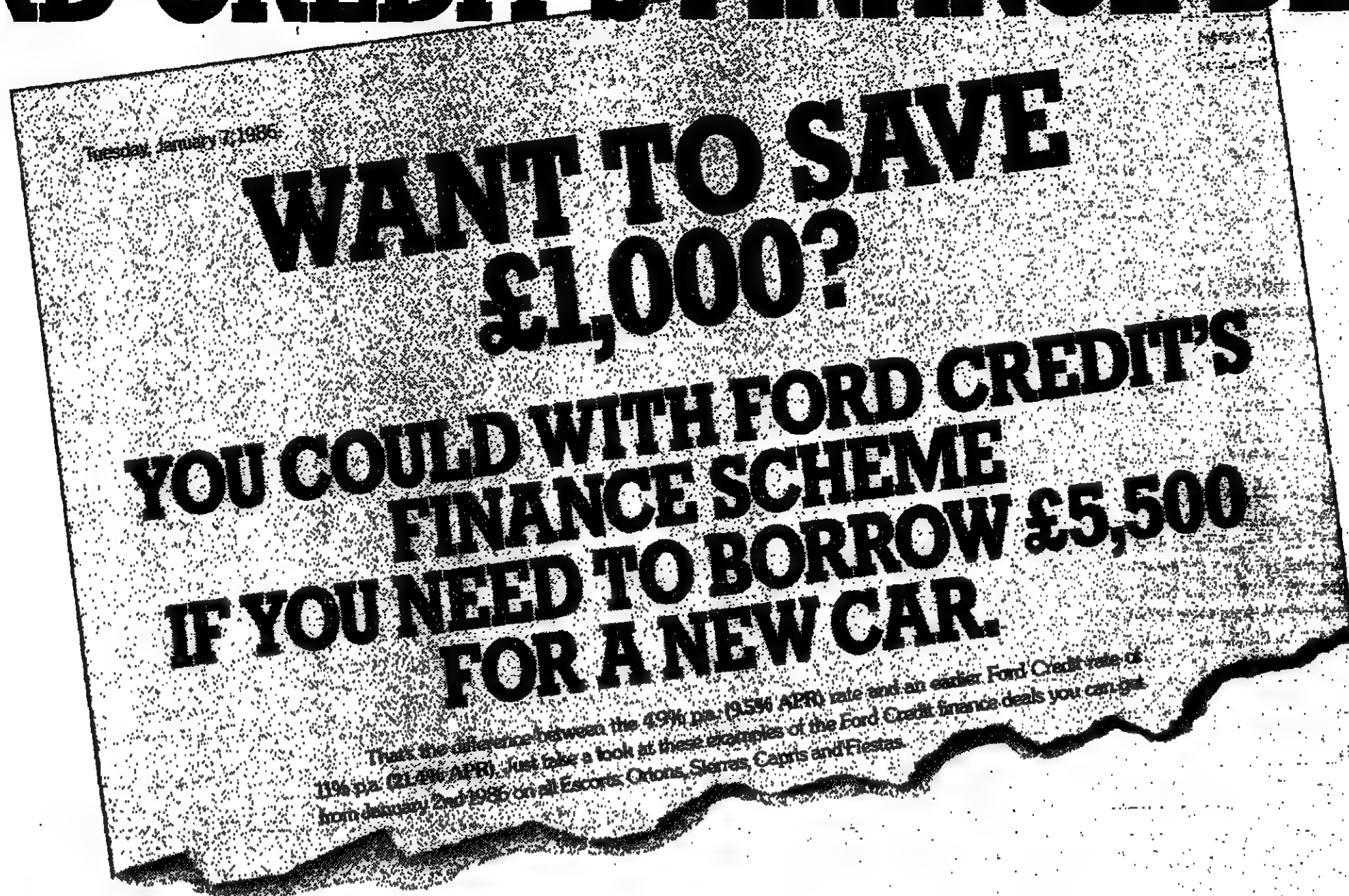
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Olivier: Tonight & Thurs at 7.15.
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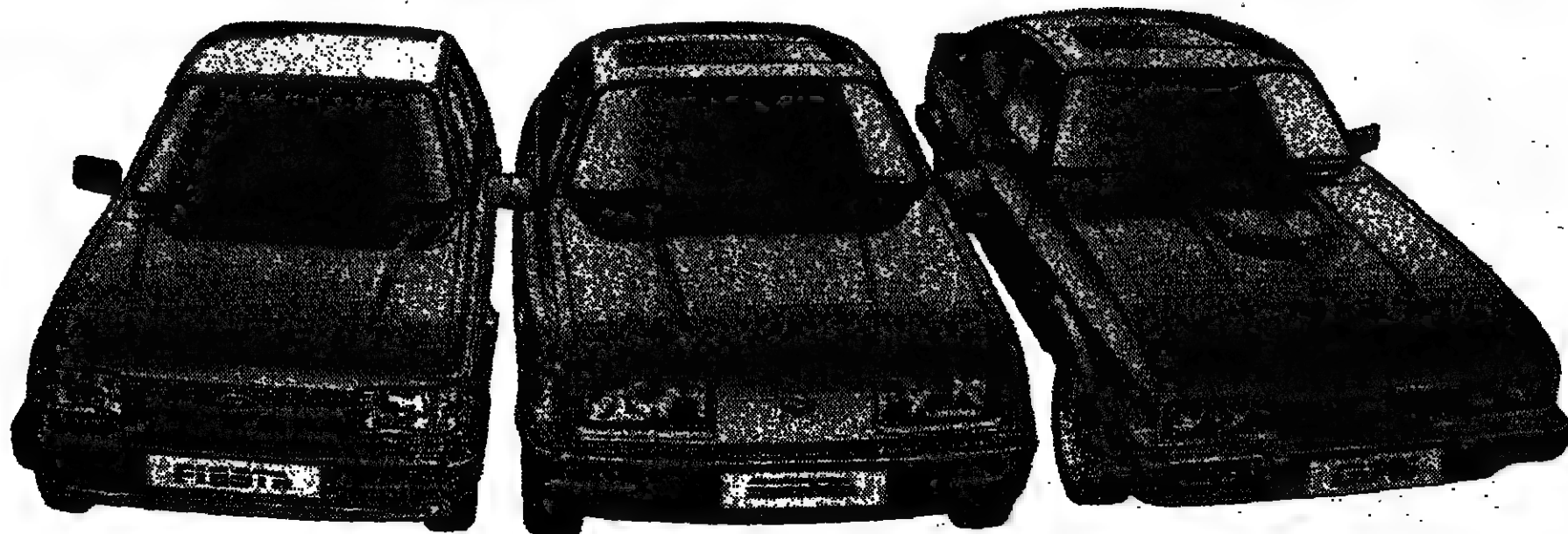
MODEL	FIESTA POPULAR 950	SIERRA 1.8 LASER	CAPRI 2.0 LASER
APR	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%
Cash Price*	4201.08	7253.38	7328.44
Initial Payment (minimum 20%)	840.22	1450.68	1465.69
Amount of Credit	3360.86	5802.70	5862.75
36 Monthly Instalments of	109.88	189.72	191.68
Charge for Credit	594.82	1027.22	1037.73
Total Credit Price	4795.90	8280.60	8366.17

*Maximum retail price as at February 7th 1986 excluding delivery, number plates and road fund licence.

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BASE LENDING RATES

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1220.7 (+1.9)
FT-SE 100
1477.9 (+4.4)
USM (Datastream)
114.33 (+0.37)
THE POUND
US dollar
1.4207 (+0.003)
W German mark
3.3213
Trade-weighted
73.6 (u/c)

Rodamco offer out

Rodamco Property, the Dutch company bidding £179 million for Haslemere Estates, sent out its offer document last night. It argues that Haslemere has under-performed the rest of the property sector and that Rodamco's offer of 600p per share cash is a fair price, a sentiment with which the market seems to agree. Rodamco now has just over 24 per cent of Haslemere, having picked up another 12 per cent from institutional shareholders on the day the unwelcome bid was announced last week. And the institutions have been selling to other buyers, including American arbitrageurs who were in the market at prices up to 624p a share.

CTG chief

Lord Pennock is to be the next chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group. He takes up the appointment next month.



Posgate fight to carry on

Mr Ian Posgate (above) is to appeal against last week's decision by the Council of Lloyd's not to readmit him to the market because he was not a "fit and proper" person to underwrite. His six-month suspension, imposed for receiving a Pissarro painting as an inducement to place business, ended on January 8. Mr Posgate will be represented by Mr Robert Alexander QC, head of the Bar Council, who also successfully represented him in his appeal against expulsion from Lloyd's.

Beazer offer

Beazer has received sufficient acceptances under its offer for French Kier to acquire compulsorily any outstanding French Kier shares.

Hunter buys

Hunter has agreed to acquire wood and board distributors Christie and Vesey for £1.6 million in cash.

71.4% accept

Morgan Crucible has acceptances for 71.4 per cent of First Castle Electronics shares and its offer has been declared unconditional.

Oil options

The New York Mercantile Exchange expects to trade options on its crude oil futures contract this year. Mr Michel Marks, chairman of the exchange, said yesterday.

Coffee switch

Soaring coffee prices have forced the International Coffee Organization to suspend coffee export quotas. With prices at least 40 cents above the maximum of 140 cents a pound set by the International Coffee Agreement, the ICO announced yesterday that members would be allowed to export as much as they wanted.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adams & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

UB offers £2.5bn for Imps as Hanson raises bid

By Alison Eadie

The battle for Imperial Group took off yesterday with Hanson Trust raising its bid to £2.28 billion and United Biscuits, whose agreed merger with Imperial was referred last week to the Monopolies Commission, stealing the initiative from Imperial and topping the Hanson offer with a record breaking £2.5 billion bid.

Imperial put out a holding statement to its shareholders, but last night it was locked in meetings with United Biscuits and is expected to recommend the UB offer. Both companies have emphasized throughout their merger campaign the industrial logic of their proposals and the lack of industrial logic of the Hanson offer. Sir Hector Laing, chairman of UB, is particularly keen to create a British food group capable of competing with the American giants in the world market to provide food for the Third World.

Sir Hector, under UB's bid terms, would become chair-

man and chief executive of the combined group straight away, instead of waiting for Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman of Imperial, to retire in March next year. Mr Kent would become a non-executive director.

United Biscuits has promised the Office of Fair Trading that it will sell off Golden Wonder, Imperial's snacks, crisps and nuts business, in order to avoid a competition reference. UB and Imperial together have over 40 per cent of the British snacks market, which triggered the reference to the Monopolies Commission. UB's snacks division, KP Foods, is larger than Golden Wonder, which had a turnover in 1984 of £117.2 million and pretax profits of £8.1 million.

UB said that after the sale of Golden Wonder, for which there are reported to be several interested parties, group gearing would be a manageable 35 per cent. Although UB



Sir Hector Laing: keen to compete with the Americans

shareholders do end up with less of the combined group under the new terms the difference is 31.4 per cent after conversion or 40 per cent before conversion as against 40 per cent under the old terms. Hanson Trust also forecast pretax profits this year of £340

million, an increase of 34 per cent.

United Biscuits is offering five of its shares and five convertible preferred shares plus 275p cash for six Imperial shares. At yesterday's closing price its offer values each Imperial share at 329p against a closing price in the market of 320p, up 29p. UB shares closed down 11p at 231p. UB is also offering 775p cash instead of the cash and preferred element of the main offer, which is worth 321.7p a share.

Hanson has offered for each Imperial share one of its shares plus 153p cash worth 301p per share at Hanson's closing price yesterday of 148p, down 3p. Alternatively, it has offered one Hanson and 153p of 10 per cent convertible stock or one Hanson and 153p of 12 per cent loan notes. The full cash alternative is worth 293p a share. Both Hanson and UB are allowing Imperial shareholders to keep Imperial's recommended final dividend of 6.6p.

Holmes à Court raises bid for BHP to £1.71 billion

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mr Robert Holmes à Court yesterday sent out the clearest signal yet that his move on the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP) is not, as many commentators have suggested, a share-hoarding manoeuvre, but a genuine attempt to take over Australia's biggest corporate enterprise.

Unveiling his latest bid, worth up to Aus\$3.5 billion (£1.71 billion) in Melbourne yesterday, Mr Holmes à Court, head of the Bell Group, said it retained many of the features of the Bell offer made on February 1. He declined to give a commitment that if he gained control of "the big Australian" he would not break it up.

The offer is to buy 50 per cent of each shareholder's stake, at Aus\$7.70. The alternative offer is a Bell share plus Aus\$2.50 for each BHP share, also up to half of a holding. There are three new conditions in the bid: that a minimum of 250 million BHP shares must be acquired; that Bell not be required to lay out

more than Aus\$2 billion in cash; and that Bell should not have to issue more than Aus\$250 million of its shares. Mr Holmes à Court conceded that these conditions meant that the bid could run into trouble if it resulted in acceptances requiring Bell to issue more than the stipulated quota of shares or put up more than Aus\$2 billion in cash.

Mr Holmes à Court also disclosed details of the financial arrangements behind the bid. The Standard Chartered Bank in Britain has extended an Aus\$2 billion line of credit to Bell Resources, which will be syndicated to Australian and international banks.

Mr Brian Lorton, managing director of BHP, acknowledged the offer as "a very serious bid" but said it suffered from the same defect as the last one. He said it was a totally inadequate consideration for passing the company into what would, in effect, be the control of one man. He would not detail how

BHP would go about preventing the takeover. In answer to a question, he said Mr Holmes à Court would not be invited to join the BHP board.

Mr Holmes à Court denied suggestions that he had bowed to political pressure in changing from a pro-rata to a proportional bid.

He confirmed that success of the offer would give Bell Group the ability to influence the composition of the board, but said any new directors would be obliged to act in the interests of shareholders rather than Bell.

Mr Holmes à Court criticized BHP's recent acquisition of two American interests and its commitment to develop a copper mine in Chile.

But he added: "Bell Resources Holdings and Bell Resources do not propose any change to the redeployment of the fixed assets of BHP and, in particular, do not propose any change to the location of the BHP head office."

Indonesia 'may raise oil output'

By Teresa Poole

Indonesia yesterday fell into step with several of its partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and said it might raise oil production and adopt a "flexible" pricing structure to meet revenue targets.

Dr Subroto, the country's mines and energy minister, told the parliament in Jakarta that Indonesia would produce oil at the level necessary to secure planned export income, but would stay in line with Opec policies.

Indonesia is producing about 1.3 million barrels of oil a day and has a maximum daily output of 1.7 million barrels.



Dr Subroto: fighting for a "fair" market share

Until the beginning of this year, Indonesia had been one of Opec's more disciplined members, observing quota and price decisions. Most of its oil is sold to the Far East, but in January its biggest customer, Japan, started to buy heavily in the European market.

Oil and natural gas are expected to earn 70 per cent of Indonesia's foreign exchange revenue of \$18.9 billion for the year starting April 1. Earlier this month, at a special committee meeting in Vienna attended by Dr Subroto, Opec confirmed its free-for-all policy of increasing production to gain a larger share of the world market.

Dr Subroto told the Indonesian parliament that the committee - Indonesia, Venezuela, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates - wanted increases in production in order to obtain a "fair" share of the market. It would recommend at next month's full Opec meeting that the cartel's oil production be adjustable to the market situation, he added.

"In principle, the market share will be larger than the production ceiling of 16 million barrels a day officially adopted by Opec at present." The price which Opec should charge for its oil was a tool which the group would use in confronting non-Opec producers to fight for its market share, Dr Subroto said.

NatWest to reorganize its services

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster, the clearing bank with the largest branch network, yesterday announced plans for an important reorganization of its customer services designed to provide a more competitive service to corporate and personal clients.

Over a three-year period NatWest will set up more than 100 corporate banking centres in busy commercial areas to provide service direct to large corporate customers. It will also develop groupings of smaller branches in about 450 areas to cater for personal customers and small businesses.

The groupings will be linked to a lead branch in each area which will co-ordinate the smaller branches and handle the larger business accounts. About 2,000 of the bank's 3,000 branches will be affected.

The local command structure within the bank will be simplified by replacing the two-tier system of eight regional and 45 area offices with a single tier of 25 strengthened area offices.

The bank is reducing its branch network by some 50 offices, and the latest plans will mean shedding a further 50 by 1990.

The new corporate banking centres will complement a system of 18 international banking centres.

Laing and Bechtel launch oil venture

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The British subsidiary of the American Bechtel group and the construction firm John Laing have established a new joint company which could lead to an increase in the use of American technology in British offshore oil and gas engineering projects.

The new company, Laing Bechtel Petroleum Development, will undertake conceptual design and engineering work for projects on the UK's Continental Shelf and in overseas markets. The company, of which Laing holds 51 per cent, said the association "will assist the development and expedite the transfer of technology within the British offshore industry".

Bechtel was involved in

about 11 big North Sea development projects up to 1983, but since then the Department of Energy has frowned on the use of American technology and urged that offshore expertise should be anchored in the UK.

The department's Offshore Supplies Office, recognizing Bechtel's world reputation, has been working behind the scenes to try to find a suitable British partner to establish a joint venture company, and Laing's involvement is the result of 10 months of discussions.

The move was welcomed yesterday by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, as "a powerful partnership".

Campari in £1.8m deal

Mr Ake Nordin, a Swedish businessman, yesterday announced a £1.8 million deal to buy large family shareholdings in Campari, the sports equipment firm.

He has agreed to buy the holdings of Mr Harry Lipton, chairman, and Mrs Roberta Benschner and their family trust, paying 49p a share.

Announcing the deal, which gives him 47.76 per cent of the north London company's shares, he said he would offer to make a full-scale takeover bid for the company at 49p a share.

At the same time he cautioned that shareholders should wait to see what he says in his formal offer document.

A statement said he intended to develop the business and wanted to keep a listing on the Stock Exchange for Campari shares. He is understood to want to achieve a total holding of between 50 per cent and 75 per cent.

Mr Nordin is a director and 30 per cent shareholder of a Swedish sports and camping gear company, Fjallraven Sport equipment.

Shop sales fall after Christmas record

By Derek Harris and Edward Townsend

After the record Christmas Britain's shops saw trade fall away last month as the New Year sales period was followed by slack trading and the start of the arctic weather. But clothing sales are flourishing, according to new figures released today by the Confederation of British Industry.

Retail sales last month were down 1.1 per cent compared with December when the index of sales volume reached a record 117.3 (1980=100), leaving the January index at 116, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The value of sales in January was up 7 per cent on the same month last year while in the same month this year sales

annual comparison was 8 per cent.

Sales in the three-month period November to January were up 3.5 per cent compared with the same period a year ago.

The score of department stores of the John Lewis Partnership reported doing well during January but by the middle of the month sales were easing, with an increase in the week ended January 25 of only 0.7 per cent. There is an increase in real terms, allowing for inflation, of about 5 per cent.

In the last week of the month had weather struck and the sales increase was 5.3 per cent in the week to February 1. In real terms this put sales

little above last year's levels.

There have been reports to the Retail Consortium, the trade body for most retailers, that stores have been hit by bad weather this month.

The John Lewis department stores, on the other hand, showed a sharp improvement despite the weather in the first week of February with improving 14.9 per cent. A factor appears to be that snow made travelling difficult only in some parts of the country and then had only a limited effect after the first few days.

Meanwhile, the British are buying more clothes than ever which is helping maintain a high level of sales in the high street, according to the CBI's latest distributive trades sur-

vey, covering 600 companies. Sales in shops and stores continue to flourish, according to the CBI.

Last month, clothing shops reported the largest rise in sales of any sector and are also the most optimistic about prospects for this month with 71 per cent predicting another increase in turnover. Only the confectionery, tobacco and newsagents sectors expect lower sales this month compared with a year ago.

Sales by wholesalers are said to be slowing down after the December boom, but the CBI stresses that higher-than-expected sales over the New Year period have left them with depleted stocks.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Britain's £70 billion North Sea legacy

It is a sign that the market is in high ground when the law of equal and opposite reasoning comes into operation. The best current example is the impact of oil prices on the United Kingdom. When North Sea oil fetched more than \$30 a barrel, Britain exulted in its petro-dollar status. North Sea induced economic activity raised the growth level; the balance of payments was in handsome surplus; oil tax revenue flowed into the Exchequer.

On its way down, the oil price became a portent of economic disaster, not least because diminishing oil revenues robbed the Chancellor of most of the wherewithal for electorally popular, and economically desirable, tax cuts. With crude oil now down to half its former level, the mood has changed. Cheap energy is now deemed to be of equal value to high price North Sea oil. The arguments can be disputed; but not the sentiment.

While the consequences of an oil-inflated pound were a steeper recession and higher unemployment than might otherwise have occurred in the early 1980s, the other side of the coin looks very pleasing. Britain accumulated huge assets overseas, which now total some £70 billion. These assets are easily capable of yielding an income of \$5 billion, and maybe as much as £7 billion a year. The legacy of oil at \$30 a barrel is one of the highest ratios of external assets to gross national product of any leading industrial country.

In 1985, Britain's net return on the oil trading account was £8.2 billion. The income from external assets built up during the oil-rich years is thus already not far short of the surplus from actually trading in oil last year. It may, in fact, very soon exceed it since the fall in oil prices will erode the £3 billion despatched abroad to foreign companies with investments in the North Sea.

The good news does not stop there. As Dr David Lomax, group economic adviser to National Westminster Bank, puts it:

"The effect of the fall in the oil price has pushed sterling to a level where British products should be much more competitive as against European and worldwide competition. The movement in the sterling exchange rate is all the Confederation of British Industry could have wished for."

Options open

The current bout of takeover fever is wonderful business for the Stock Exchange's traded options market, never mind that it is speculative rather than answering those more worthy aims normally claimed for options and futures.

Last month, Distillers joined the list of individual stocks traded, along with Boots and Cable & Wireless. The three together accounted for some 12 per cent of the recorded volume achieved, with rumours about Boots adding to the more obvious appeal of trading in Distillers.

Yesterday, the exchange announced that Blue Circle will join the list from Thursday. It will be the 36th company option traded, along with three gift-edged stocks and the contract on the FT-SE 100 share index.

The policy of increasing the numbers of contracts steadily month by month has undoubtedly helped build up the market, which has grown by leaps and bounds after a slow start in 1978-79.

There were tax problems then

which confined business to call options. That was sorted out in 1981. Since then, new stocks, particularly British Telecom plus the index contract from 1984, have produced accelerating growth in the heady atmosphere of boom. By 1984, contracts topped the million mark and volume doubled again last year to 2.28 million.

The index contract has been something of a disappointment for the marketmakers. There are problems for institutional managers who need separate permissions under their trust deeds for trading in an index, rather than in individual stocks where there is real stock to be delivered at the end of the paper contracts.

Even so, the FT-SE contract, despite related competition from the rival market Life, accounts for about 12 per cent of the contracts, with contracts totalling about £175 million open at the last count. By contrast, stock contracts open now total about £700 million.

In the United States, however, contracts on the equivalent Standard & Poor's index dominate not merely option business but sometimes equity turnover as a whole.

Gilts wait on GB

Gilts dutifully went for their life yesterday after traders had spent a restless weekend brooding about the disinflationary environment prevailing in New York and other points east.

Longs opened about 5/8 point up, eased back a fraction on mid-morning profit-taking, and then pushed ahead again as fresh demand materialized to underpin the market; Treasury 2003/07 put on about a point in this way. Both mediums and shorts improved by some 3/8 point.

A trifle gratuitously, the Government Broker announced that he had exhausted supplies of his most recent new issue, Treasury 10 per cent 1993.

But the price at which he exhausted the tap was eye-catching - £20½ per cent, or a fully paid up price of £94½. This is clearly comfortably above the allotment price, and serves to emphasize just what a bargain Government stocks now are. Perhaps the moral of the announcement is that more stock sales are on the way.

Plenty of traders yesterday were prepared to bet on a fleeting appearance of the Government Broker today at 3.30. January borrowing figures for the public sector will be published at 2.30, and the median forecast is for a net repayment of debt to the tune of some £2.3 billion, whether or not the authorities are still sitting on a heap of unrepresented cheques.

The market ought to like that figure. It would add up to a cumulative borrowing figure for 1985-86 of about £5½ billion, putting the Chancellor well on target for his total projected figure for the year of £8 billion. Judging by the way that recent Government data has tended to outperform expectations, it must be a reasonable bet that the published figure will be better than market hopes.

Judging by the performance yesterday of the US long bond futures, the American market, closed for the President's Day, has retained its bullish edge. The combination of a strong market in New York and good UK economic data could add up to an irresistible background for extra funding moves. Last night the balance of market views favoured an early 21st century stock.

Changes at Great Portland

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Mr Basil Samuel's switch from chairman of Great Portland Estates to its life president is seen as the forerunner of changes in the property company's operation.

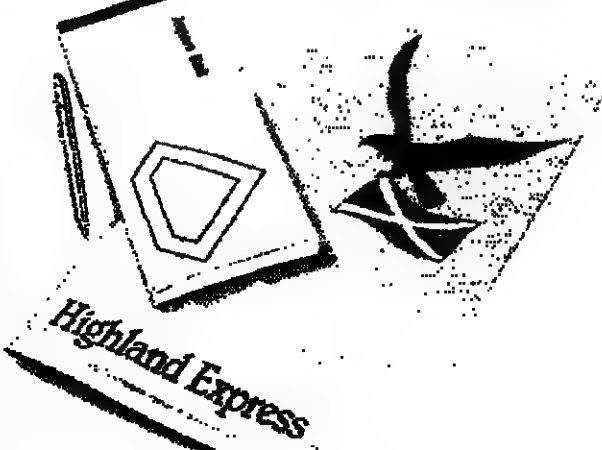
The market is looking to Mr Richard Peskin, the new managing director and chairman, to set a faster pace.

Great Portland is seen as a prime takeover candidate in the sector although Mr Samuel's stake - 6.2 per cent of beneficial holdings and 3 per cent of non-beneficial shares - makes such a move unlikely. There are no indications that the former chairman intends to sell.

Great Portland has gradually been changing its portfolio to give a more attractive asset base. It has a high exposure to the City of London office market and recently let its development at 80 Bishopsgate to a foreign bank at a healthy rent.

It has been selling part of its Great Portland Street portfolio but if changes in planning law come through, it could benefit by transforming industrial property into offices.

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WALL STREET

New York (AP-D) Traders and analysts said a powerful rally in the bond market helped the stock market overcome repeated small pull-backs. The Treasury's budget 9.1-4 per cent bond was up about 1.12 points late in the day.

Both markets received a boost at the opening of trading, participants said, on news that producer prices last month fell a greater-than-expected 0.7 per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 1664.45 up 19.38. There were 158 issues advancing, 495 declining and 383 unchanged.

Volume totalled 155,590,000 shares compared with 136,498,000 shares yesterday.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index was 126.65, up 1.24.

Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18
AMR	51 1/4	51 1/4	51 1/4	51 1/4
ASA	37 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2
AT&T	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
Bank of America	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2
Boeing	42 1/2	42 1/2	42 1/2	42 1/2
Chrysler	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
IBM	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Intel	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2
Johnson & Johnson	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
McDonald's	22 1/2	22 1/2	22 1/2	22 1/2
Merck	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2
Microsoft	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
Motorola	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2
Oracle	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
Rockwell	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Sony	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Texas Instruments	31 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2
Walt Disney	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
Yale	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months
N York	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
London	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Frankfurt	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Paris	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Geneva	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Basel	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Brussels	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Amsterdam	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Stockholm	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Copenhagen	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Helsinki	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Tokyo	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Osaka	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Manila	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Bombay	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Calcutta	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Rangoon	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Singapore	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Colombo	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Madras	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Batavia	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Samarang	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Surabaya	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Yogyakarta	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Bandung	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
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Surabaya	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
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Surabaya	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Yogyakarta	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Bandung	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120
Medan	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120	1.4115-1.4120

TEMPUS

Dealers may take fright when bid fever passes

The Hanson Trust-Imperial Group-United Biscuits triangle pushed the market to yet higher peaks yesterday morning. But by the afternoon much of the excitement had vanished. It seems that dealers are uncertain whether these record bids herald yet more of the same or whether Hanson has once again called the tune.

Optimism is not unique to London. Last week both Wall Street and the Japanese equity markets hit new highs and the smaller markets of Hong Kong, West Germany and Australia, though less buoyant, are still not far off their best.

Baldly, confidence in Japan can be explained in terms of lower oil prices, while Wall Street is benefiting from international flows of capital, principally from Japan, and a series of good economic numbers. The reasons for London's startling performance are, however, more difficult to find because oil is clearly a mixed blessing, given that the recent fall-out reduces the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre.

Mr Jack Duffus of Greene & Co, the stockbroker, says the market is ripe for a downward correction. He points out that the main index is now 18.6 per cent above its 240-day moving average, which he describes as "a magnetic force that drags its meandering subject back to reality whenever it strays too far away". He says that the market has been rising on the back of a limited number of shares and that the surge of activity cannot be sustained for long.

However, dealers are known for their pragmatic view of the market. While takeover fever remains intense, and there is foreign money to feed it, the market is likely to remain buoyant. But in the long run there must be a limit to the number of bid targets that can be found. When the market starts to see the source of its strength drying up, dealers could take fright quite suddenly.

Dalgely

The stock market did not like Dalgely's acquisition of Gill & Duffus when it was first announced last year. Events since have only gone to confirm those doubts, with

the company suffering from both the tin crisis and a fall in the price of cocoa. Although the company claims any tin-related loss will not be material, the saga simply underlines Gill & Duffus's vulnerability to the drama of commodity markets.

Despite those problems Gill & Duffus contributed £7.9 million to Dalgely's pretax profit of £35.4 million in the six months to December 31. As Gill & Duffus did not formally produce any interim figures, either for internal consumption or for publication, it is difficult to say how that result compares with last year, although it probably indicates a similar underlying rate of profit.

On the face of it profits from the rest of Dalgely are down but deconsolidation of Dalgely Farmers of Australia, together with movements in exchange rates, more than covers the shortfall. But among the spread of businesses there was a huge variation.

Most worrying was the performance at Martin-Brower, an American distributor of McDonald's products, where profits stood still despite an increase in turnover. The disappointment is attributed to the costs of introducing new McDonald's products, so profits should resume in the second half. But there is now a risk that profits will be held back every time McDonald's changes its range.

Pet food, however, did well and the company is clearly confident of future growth as the market is growing at 5 per cent a year. And after the acquisition of Romix Foods, Dalgely has become the largest cake mix producer in the country.

These consumer related businesses do not disguise the presence of the more cyclical operations, such as egg production and Canadian lumber. These and the commodity trading businesses are likely to prevent a further rerating of Dalgely's shares. At 240p they are trading on less than 10 times earnings, but the yield of 7 per cent could be attractive to income seekers.

Mann and Co

Bid speculation has been kind to the share price of

Mann and Company, the publicly quoted estate agency, which has found itself swept up in a wave of enthusiasm for the sector. Rising house prices and no shortage of funds for would-be buyers have apparently alerted likely predators to the attractions of installing "For Sale" signs throughout suburbia.

But yesterday Mann's shares faced a day of reckoning, falling 12p to 273p, although still trading at a healthy premium to last year's tender price of 145p.

Ostensibly, the fall reflected first-half figures which showed an advance from £1.8 million to £2.2 million in pretax profits. Sales were up from £5.6 million to £6.3 million. The number of houses sold during the period was 6,100 compared with 5,600. The value of properties passing through its books was £290 million, up from £230 million, while insurance services arranged by Mann totalled £70 million, an increase of £25 million. There is an interim dividend of 1.6p for the six months ended November 30.

The chairman, Mr Jeremy Agace, and his team now operate a chain of 163 outlets, thanks to the recent acquisition of Abbotts, one of the largest agencies in East Anglia. They plan to open another nine or so branches this year.

Looked at on strictly operating grounds, Mann's performance has been steady if unspectacular and there are reasons for thinking that this is likely to be the pattern for some time to come. House prices for the coming year are set to go up between 7 and 12 per cent, a few points below last year's rate, while the current spell of cold weather is likely to keep prospective buyers indoors.

Until there are more positive indications that Mann is likely to be on the receiving end of an approach the market will adopt a cooler attitude towards its trading prospects. With Abbotts set to contribute about £200,000 this year Mann will probably finish making around £4.1 million. The shares remain pitched at a flattering level although the strength of the paper will help Mann to achieve its ambitious plans.

Singapore faces short, sharp economic shock

By Our Financial Staff

The economic programme aimed at shocking Singapore's economy out of its sudden trough of stagnation will be given a sharp boost of urgency today, when Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong steps up from a junior government post to the Cabinet as acting minister for trade and industry.

Brigadier-General Lee is the heir-apparent son of the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and has been chairman of the committee charged with drawing up the reform package. The full report of the committee is about to be submitted and publication in Singapore is expected in the next few days.

Meanwhile, summaries of the report's recommendations have been dribbling out, and those, added to recent utterances of Brigadier-General Lee, suggest that the report may not be the fundamental long-term document some had been expecting. By contrast, short-term measures are likely to be drastic.

The immediate plan is to reduce employment costs by a combination of freezes — if not actual cuts — in nominal wages, combined with tax changes to reduce the cost of labour to employers. In particular, employers' contributions to the Central Provident Fund (equivalent to national insurance contributions in Britain) are likely to be cut heavily, though temporarily, from 25 per cent to 10 per cent. Taxes on company profits are likely to be cut less drastically, but with an additional allowance for capital investment in plant and machinery.

As expected, there is to be more emphasis on services and on locally grown businesses. But Brigadier-General Lee, speaking at a recent London conference on



Brigadier-General Lee: emphasis on old virtues

Singapore Futures at the Commonwealth Institute, insisted that the island's economy would continue to rely on investment from overseas multinationals.

Indeed, the first priority — reducing wage costs — is aimed squarely at reversing the mistimed government-inspired drive to price the island out of cheap-labour industries. To cushion the impact on take-home pay, the Government wants the strain to be taken by reducing the proportion of pay going in compulsory saving via the state central provident fund. The basic features of the fund, perhaps surprisingly, are likely to remain intact.

Most of the emphasis, however, is to be placed on recovering the old virtues. Brigadier-General Lee "if we are prepared to work 44 hours a week where others work only 38; if we are willing to do third shift duties, and keep plants open 24 hours a day; if we will accept postings by multinational companies to strange overseas lands, to do hardship tours away from creature comforts; then Singapore has something to offer an investor."

Life under Brigadier-General Lee seems, unlikely to be an easy ride.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares break record despite profit-taking

The stock market extended last week's record advance, despite profit-taking during the day. The FT 30-share index closed at 1220.7, up 1.9 and the FT-SE index of 100 shares gained 4.4 to 1477.9.

Takeover activity continued to dominate, with Imperial Group back in the limelight following the counter bid from United Biscuits and the increased offer from Hanson Trust.

Imperial finished 29p higher at 320p, but United Biscuits slipped 11p to 231p. Hanson, where there is talk that the group may switch their attention to Bowater if they fail to snare Imperial, lost 3p at 143p. Bowater jumped 15p to 308p.

Gilt had a good day on hopes of lower US interest rates, scoring gains of up to 7/8. Last week's Treasury tap stock 10 per cent 1993 was exhausted at £20 3/4.

The go-ahead for the Hawk/Tornado order gave a boost to British Aerospace up 15p at 468p, but among motors Jaguar provided a dull spot, shedding 15p at 71p on profit-taking. In contrast BL reacted to truck sale talks 9p higher at 58p.

Stores lost ground on the falling retail sales, but one to go against the trend was Asda 11p higher at 146p on speculative demand.

Dalgely expressed disappointment with interim figures 5p lower at 238p, while

profit-taking after the trading results lowered Mann and Co 12p at 273p.

Bid speculation prompted a sharp 53p jump in Miss World at 218p. Others wanted for this reason included Granada 8p up at 236p, Wordplex 15p higher at 91p, and Maxprint 7p better at 32p.

WGI put on 12p at 118p, after the agreed Tilbury bid while Manchester Ship, excited by the Highams bid added 15p at 530p.

A "take profits" advice trimmed West Bromwich Spring 16p at 34p, but acquisition news was good for Rowland Martin 16p higher at 150p.

Option market: Moderate activity was reported for the new account which opened yesterday.

Calls were produced in GUS, Amber Day, Agrico Computers, G F Lovell, STC, Five Oaks Investments, Bula Resources, Riley Leisure, Aberdeen Steak Houses, Cadbury Schweppes, Worthington AJ, Grovett, Welkom Gold Mining, Widney, Amstrad, Chloride, Cowan de Groot, Arlen, Rainers, United Biscuits warrants, Sound Diffusion, Tranwood, Harris Queensway, Leisure Time, Beca, Thomas French, Combined Technologies, Carless Capel and International Leisure.

RECENT ISSUES

Abbott M. 231 dn 2
Ashley (L) 199 dn 3
Cable & Wire. 320 dn 3
Control Tech 158
u-Datron Int 83
Davidson Pearce 158 up 7
u-Elec Data 71 dn 2
Ferguson J 22 dn 4
u-Hampden 60 up 1
Inoco 51
u-Klark-Tnk. 103 dn 5
Lexicon Inc. 118 up 3
Macro 4 new 126 up 1
Merivale 125
Really Useful 368 up 5
SPP 155
Safeway UK £41 1-4 up 0 3-4
u-Shandwick 210 up 2

u-Sherwood 212 up 12
u-Sigmax 101
Shorrock 78
Tiphook 174
Underwoods 189
Wellcome new 167 up 7

Rights Issues
BTP 118
Barham f/p 146 dn 3
Crax Elec np 43
Goal Pet f/p 46 dn 2
Hogg Rob f/p 318 dn 2
Peel Hds f/p 485 dn 5
Stormgard f/p 18
Speyhawk new 295
Unigroup f/p 118 dn 2
Watshams n/p 34

RHP plans £24m buyouts

RHP Group has conditionally agreed to buy two fire and explosion control companies from Allegheny International.

The £24.25 million price for Gravinier and Deurga will be met with 18.49 million new RHP ordinary shares, all of which have been conditionally placed. About 53 per cent of

the new shares will be offered to RHP shareholders.

In addition, RHP has agreed to pay the Allegheny subsidiary Wilkinson Finance £5.75 million of inter-group indebtedness outstanding from Gravinier and Deurga.

Gravinier and Deurga design, manufacture, supply and

service a range of products for detection and suppression of fires and explosions.

Gravinier's facilities are at Colnbrook where the company owns a 10-acre site near Heathrow airport.

Deurga operates from Ratigan, near Düsseldorf airport, West Germany.

COMPANY NEWS

● **JAMES RESOURCES:** The Canadian explorer has begun an 80-hole drilling programme to test the 50 sq mile gold prospect it has farmed into at County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. The company raised £200,000 by a private placement during December to finance the exploration.

● **GOODHEAD PRINT GROUP:** Results for the half year to November 30: Interim dividend 1p. Figures in £000. Sales 12,341 (10,502), operating profit 726 (653), net interest and similar charges 202 (251), pretax profit 524 (402), tax 131 (93), minorities nil (one), extraordinary debit nil (21), earnings per share 4.3p (3.8p). Dividend payable April 6.

● **PROTIMETER:** Results for the six months to December 31. Interim dividend 0.5p (nil). Figures in £000. Turnover 808 (630), pretax profit 279 (206), tax 109 (93), earnings per share 2.25p (1.5p). Some profit increase was due to the wet harvest in the United Kingdom which resulted in increased sales of grain-moisture meters to farmers.

● **ANGLO-INDONESIAN CORP:** The directors of Plantation and General Investments say the offer document in connection with the proposed merger with Anglo-Indonesian is being posted to shareholders. It includes their estimate that the consolidated pretax profits of Plantation and General for the year to December 31 were about £1.7 million. They have declared a second interim dividend (in lieu of a final dividend) in respect of the year to December 31 of 3p net per ordinary share, giving total net dividends for the year of 5.2p net per ordinary share. Anglo-Indonesian directors estimate that consolidated pretax profits of Anglo-Indonesian for the year to December 31 were about £1.9 million before provision for Brazilian monetary working capital adjustment of £0.5 million.

● **ST HELENA GOLD MINES:** As a result of a series of abnormality severe seismic events on February 10, several working places have been affected in the area served by no. 2 shaft. No workers were injured but a 10 per cent loss in gold production is expected for this quarter.

● **GLASGOW STOCKHOLDERS TRUST:** Final 1.45p, making 2.3p (2.05p). With figures in £000, gross revenue was 2,289 (1,888). Net revenue before tax 1,252 (1,222). Earnings per share 2.45 (2.32).

● **LEIDA INVESTMENT TRUST:** Net asset value per capital share at January 31 was 205.6p.

● **ARCHIMEDES INVESTMENT TRUST:** Unaudited net asset value at January 31 was 294.37 per capital share.

● **EQUITY CONSORT INVESTMENT TRUST:** Unaudited net asset values per share at January 31 were 422p per £1 ordinary share and 644p per 50p deferred share.

● **HEALTH CARE SERVICES:** Company has entered into a conditional agreement to provide advisory and management services to Bright Walton Homes, which will own and operate between three and ten residential and nursing homes, concentrating initially on the south and south-east.

capital expenditure. Bank borrowings have been reduced to £8.8m at January 31, but the board considers this is still too high.

● **CRANBROOK ELECTRONIC HOLDINGS:** Dividend 0.5p (nil) for year to September 30. With figures in £000, turnover was 6,171 (6,291), gross profit 2,222 (1,864) after cost of sales 3,949 (4,427), pretax profit 475 (298), tax 193 (133) and earnings per share 3.92p (2.41p).

● **EWART NEW NORTH-EAST:** Interim 0.5p (0.5p). With figures in £000, turnover was 79 (165) for the half year to October 1. Pretax profit was 39 (39). Earnings per share 1.01p (1p).

● **GREENBANK GROUP:** The company has bought the equipment, stock and technology of Clark Industries from Pegler Hattersley for about £250,000 cash provided from the company's own resources. Remaining net assets of Clark are being retained by Pegler. Clark's main products are small to medium-sized desalination plants of reverse osmosis and heat using types.

● **SECOND ALLIANCE TRUST:** Interim dividend 6p (5p). With figures in £000, gross income before interest and expenses was 2,994 (2,672) for the half year to January 31. Revenue before tax was 2,856 (2,498), tax 1,002 (947), net asset value 782.4p (677.0p) and earnings per share 9.59p (8.01p). Earnings per ordinary stock unit for the year to July 31, 1986 are expected to exceed 19.5p (17.14p).

● **UNITED COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY:** The directors of Harvard announce an increase in the cash alternative offer to acquire the ordinary shares. It will be increased to 110p for each United share. In all other respects the offers to acquire the United shares and the outstanding warrants are unchanged, except that the closing date for both the offers will be extended to the 14th day of June of the document containing the increased offer. Harvard already owns 747,500 United shares.

● **MCCORQUODALE:** The company has acquired the freehold property, manufacturing plant, inventories and trade of H W Chapman, a specialist packaging business, for a cash consideration of £6.5 million. In the year to December 31 Chapman recorded a trading profit before interest and tax of about £1.6 million on sales of £14 million.

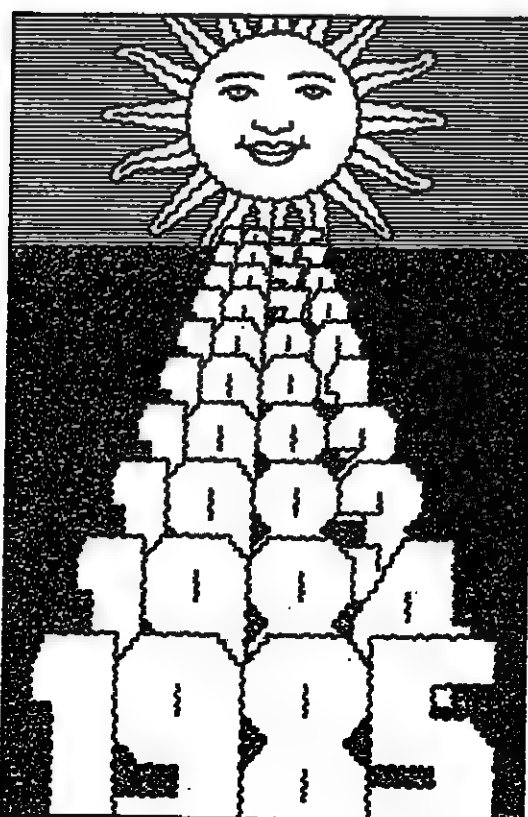
MAJOR SHARE CHANGES

Rises
Maxprint 34 + 9
Miss World 220 + 55
Pengkaten 200 + 50
Aidcom Int 57 + 13
H and J Quick 71 + 13
Tanjong Tin 150 + 25
Wordplex 91 + 15
Amber Day 26.75 + 4
BL 58 + 9
Falls
Bolton Textile 17 - 2
CFS Computer 30 - 3
Lyle Shipping 11 - 1
Sunlight Electrical 20 - 1.50

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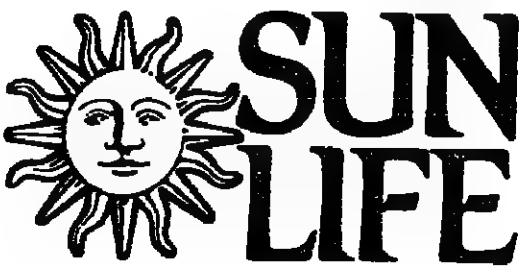


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THE TIMES

COMMODITIES REVIEW

ITC delays put a spanner in the Newco works

It is now so long since the dynamic duo of Mr Ralph Kestenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals, and Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, tumbled down the chimney with their Christmas present of a solution to the tin crisis that their offering might better be called "Oldco".

Indeed, if the pace of events does not pick up perceptibly, Newco might fall apart as bankers and brokers, lose patience with the bureaucratic ways of the International Tin Council.

The problem is simply that with every week that this extraordinary affair drags on, the economics of Newco look more fragile. The disturbing question that arises now is: can Newco perform its allotted task of taking on and disposing of the ITC's huge obligations in an orderly fashion?

Let us start at the beginning. The original proposal, longhearsd may recall, was for Newco to be capitalized, with £270 million in equity and £50 million of loan capital. The ITC was to put up £200 million and the banks and London Metal Exchange brokers £70 million of the equity, with British taxpayers stumping up the loan capital.

That was the idea. The execution (not a reference to bankers' views on the ITC) has been rather different. By delaying and cheese-paring, the ITC has cut its stake to £100 million, with the help of contributions from other metal dealers, the banks and London Metal Exchange brokers will scrape together £100 million. Also, the Government's loan has been translated into cash up front.

This means that Newco's capital structure has been weakened on two important fronts: it is short of working capital, and there is no guarantee from ITC members to cover any cash outgoings caused by tin prices being lower than expected or by more time than expected being needed to eliminate Newco's stocks and hence the company.

Even as conceived, Newco

would have "flown" — Mr Kestenbaum's favourite metaphor — on a wing and a prayer. At last week's hearing before the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Mr Kestenbaum said he expected tin to reopen at £7,500 a tonne, because of backwardation in the market, and then average £6,000 over the three years of Newco's life.

Nobody seems sure how these prices were calculated — one banker closely involved in the crisis said that it was the first time he had heard them. But it is obvious that Newco could look very uneasy if tin prices average less than has been assumed. The plan includes no specific exchange rate, interest rate or even detailed cash flow estimates.

There is a good reason for this. Any such assumptions would immediately become targets for speculators. Some people involved with Newco already fear that Mr Kestenbaum's generous tin price estimates will encourage the ITC to argue that it is being asked for too much.

But one thing is certain: without lower tin production and exports, Newco will be with us for much longer than three years. If it takes on about 35,000 tonnes of ITC obligations, there might be 50,000 tonnes of physical metal to place in the market. With the present export controls of about 30,000 tonnes, the market is barely in balance when consumption is 165,000 tonnes.

So it is hardly surprising that one analyst advised Newco to plan disposals over 10 years. Unloading 15,000 tonnes of tin a year on to the market in its likely state seems bound to depress the price below the vague assumptions on which Newco is constructed.

The longer the crisis lasts, the weaker the tin price will be. Even today it is barely above £5,000 a tonne, a far cry from the £8,140 at which LME dealings were suspended. If the ITC does not improve its offer quickly, Newco could become "Pastco", and quite a few other companies could join it.

Michael Prest

APPOINTMENTS



Mark Cliffe: chief economist at ANZ

New chief for bank subsidiary

Bank of America: Mr Gerald Deberry has been made managing director of the London-based merchant banking subsidiary, Bank of America International Limited (BAIL).

John Lewis Partnership: Mr David Young is to become the partnership's deputy finance director on June 30.

ANZ Merchant Bank: Mr Mark Cliffe has been named chief economist.

Crow Companies: Mr Keith Gee becomes managing director.

Pegler Sunvic: Mr Alan Newton is made director and general manager.

Thew Engineering Group: Mr Hugh Cameron becomes group financial director.

Felton Fluid Handling: Mr John Boyd joins the board.

ARC: Mr Humphrey Wood has been named executive chairman with Mr C. Spence as chief executive and deputy chairman. Mr B. W. Deller, Mr C. Glynn, Mr E. H. Hope, Mr G. Mortimer, Mr K. Orrell-Jones, Mr D. S. Singleton and Mr P. T. Terry have become non-executive directors. The non-executive directors are Mr E. J. Agnew, Mr R. G. Bartlett, Mr S. Elton, Mr P. D. Fells, Mr G. R. J. Guise, Mr A. P. Hitchens and Mr H. P. Parry.

Heublein Inc: Mr Jeremy Collis has become vice-president for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region.

H E Moss: Mr Robert Bam will become managing director from April 1.

Continental Trust: Mr Michael Hobson has been appointed managing director and Mr Philip Reid an assistant director.

Heron Power: Mr Colin Pattison has been made marketing services manager.

More breweries face threat of closure

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Overcapacity among Britain's brewers could mean further closures on top of the 14 breweries which have been shut down since 1980.

Some City estimates suggest that more than a quarter of the industry's capacity is unused at a time when beer production is languishing with not much prospect of improvement in the immediate future.

Total brewing capacity in Britain exceeds 50 million bulk barrels, according to Buckmaster and Moore, one of the leading drinks trade analysts. But last year, the Brewers' Society says, beer production was 36.45 million bulk barrels, a decrease of 0.7 per cent on 1984.

Future takeovers and mergers are unlikely to do much to reduce the excess capacity, the analysts contend. They add:

"This problem might only be solved if one or two of the major brewers were to close down all their breweries or if consumption were to rise by 50 per cent."

The brewing industry has long contested Buckmaster and Moore estimates on excess capacity, partly because brewing techniques have changed but also because the industry always needs some spare capacity to meet peak summer demand.

But only the degree of excess is in dispute because the new generation of breweries was planned largely in the years before 1979 when beer sales consistently showed a 2 per cent annual rise.

Had that pattern of growth not been upset by the effects of recession, the industry would probably have needed a capacity of around 50 million bulk

barrels by the end of this decade. But since 1980 14 brewery locations have been closed down and there could be more to come as sales patterns change.

The only countervailing trend has been the growth in mini-breweries, usually attached to single pubs. In 1984, there were 128 large-scale breweries but since 1971 about 90 small brewers have appeared on the scene.

It is the ales, especially mild, which have been hit most by beer sales have drifted into the doldrums since 1979.

Premium brewers have held their own and lagers sales continue to grow, and now account for 42 per cent of the market in Britain. Its market share appears to be higher in the South-east and in Scotland where it has been a traditional drink for much longer.

Micro memory prices plunge

By Geoff Woodwright

The days of the empty personal computer are numbered. In recent months the cost of adding to the innards of microcomputers has plummeted, making it much easier for users to make more of their business systems.

There are acres of space inside the nation's business computers — just waiting to be occupied by some little plug-in "goodie" that will make the machine easier, faster or more sensible to use. The most basic of these is the RAM (random access memory) card — a device which plugs into slots inside a computer and vastly increases the amount of information it can handle without having to retrieve more information from the computer disc drive.

The dramatic drop in prices of RAM cards — the best of which cost almost £1,000 a year ago and which can now be found for between £200 and £500 — is largely attributable to the worldwide drop in demand for the computer RAM microchips which make up the cards. The development of chips which are more powerful but cost little more to produce has also led to the price decline.

Of course, extra RAM will do no good unless computers

can make proper use of it — but there seems to be no danger of that happening. In fact, quite a number of pieces of computer software have been "waiting" for this drop in prices. Packages such as Lotus "Symphony" and Ashton-Tate's "Framework", both of which include a word-processor, a spreadsheet electronic ledger system and a database computer filing system, have had limited success because they both require extra computer memory cards to be purchased before they can be used extensively.

The software flavour-of-the-month, graphics-based business software which can be controlled using pictures instead of word commands, is very hungry on computer memory. Microsoft's Windows and Digital Research's "Gem" for the IBM PC both require at least 640K (storage for about 640,000 characters) of RAM to be used effectively.

The fact that RAM for computers such as the IBM PC is measured in the thousands, rather than the hundreds, means that very large tasks — which previously would have been very time-consuming or plain impossible on a micro — can now be done with little difficulty.

'Prospects good' for N Sea oil

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

World oil price uncertainty will have only a marginal effect on the pace of future North Sea oil developments, according to Gaffney Cline, the international energy adviser.

Total oil drilling, exploration, appraisal and development in the North Sea reached a record level last year, although exploration drilling was marginally down on the previous year.

Mr Geoffrey Cull, Gaffney Cline's managing director for European operations, said: "The current oil price instability has created uncertainty and pessimism in some circles, but the long lead time from discovery to development offshore sometimes as much as 10 years — acts to our advantage."

"We believe that oil prices will recover in the short to medium term once Opec has resolved its problems. Consequently, developments planned now will eventually come on stream after the oil price recovery."

"While some delay may be expected in planning some future marginal prospects, I see no reason why discoveries of larger accumulations should not be planned and implemented."

Mr Cull added: "Of great significance is the steadily increasing development index, which shows that more reserves are being developed to replace those already produced."

"This trend is continuing and the recent announcement of the approval for the development of the Ivanhoe and Rob Roy fields is an example of this."

The pace of oil development in Norway is also likely to continue despite oil price problems.

Eurobond dealers fear Bill

By Clare Dobie

Concern is growing that the Eurobond market will be driven out of London by the Financial Services Bill.

Dealers are worried that the detailed regulatory clauses of the Bill are unsuited to the fast-moving and international nature of the bond market.

"There is a real fear that the new issue market will go to Luxembourg," said Mr Ian Steers, chairman of the proposed International Securities Regulatory Organization, the body set up to regulate the Eurobond market.

The problem is that most new issues on the Eurobond market are sold via telex but the Bill would require these to be vetted at length. The delay to each issue could damage the market substantially, as London is competing for business with Continental centres.

The Confederation of British Industry, which is looking at several aspects of the Bill, is particularly anxious about its effects on the Eurobond market.

Mr Peter Farnley, the head of company law at the CBI, said: "Any extra cost or delay automatically feeds through in higher costs for companies wishing to raise money on the Eurobond market."

It is understood that the Department of Trade and Industry is already looking at the problem and considering relaxing the requirements.

Duty of directors who prefer their own bid

In re a Company No 008699 of 1985

Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment given February 13]

Mr Justice Hoffmann dismissed a motion to strike out a petition in which the petitioners alleged that the directors had acted in a manner prejudicial to their interests by favouring a lower bid for the company's shares from a company promoted by the directors in preference to a higher bid from a trade competitor.

Mr Robin Potts and Mr John Cane for the directors, Mr Ralph Instone for the petitioners.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that the case concerned the duties of the directors of a private company to its general body of shareholders when there were two competing offers for their shares: one from a company promoted by the directors themselves and the other, at a substantially higher figure, from a trade competitor.

The petitioners, holding 29 per cent of the issued share capital, alleged unfairly prejudicial conduct by the directors in favouring their own bid.

The directors wished to have the petition struck out as disclosing no reasonable cause of action or as being frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of process.

The offer from the company promoted by the directors, which was subject to the satisfaction of various conditions, was for £4.00 a share; the offer from a publicly quoted company carrying on a similar business, was for £3 a share, £2 in cash and £1 in short-dated 10 per cent loan notes. That offer could be declared unconditional by the offeror on acceptance in respect of more than 50 per cent of the shares by December 12, 1985.

Both offers were received before the holding of an extraordinary general meeting, on November 18, 1985.

The petition alleged that when the meeting was held the chairman, realising from the proxies received that special resolutions would be needed for the success of the offer from the directors' company, secured the passing of a proposal for an adjournment, requiring only a simple majority, despite the opposition of shareholders holding more than 25 per cent of the shares. The meeting was not reconvened, and the offer lapsed.

On the same date as the meeting, the chairman sent a circular letter to shareholders, expressing the view that the rival offer could not succeed because the holders of 232,939 shares had given irrevocable undertakings which would preclude their accepting it, and that the articles of association could not be amended so as to admit the offer to membership.

Mr Instone contended that that circular was misleading, and that the undertakings referred to would lapse with the offer from the directors' company, and that the power to admit an outsider to membership under article 4, was a fiduciary power which the board had to exercise in the interests of the shareholders as a whole: see *Heron International Ltd v Gade* (1983) 3 CLC 244, 265.

In short, it was said that the chairman's letter was unfair to the petitioners, who wished the rival offer to succeed. It was also contended that since the rival offer was more than twice the value of the directors' offer, it was the board's duty to recommend acceptance and to inform shareholders that the articles would be amended so as to admit the offeror. In failing to do so, the directors were liable to be found in breach of their duty.

Mr Potts contended that since the only matters alleged to constitute unfairness actually alleged in the petition were the failure to recommend the higher bid, and the failure to inform shareholders that the offer would be admitted to membership, the petition must stand or fall by them.

But the primary function of the petition was to allege facts upon which the claim to the exercise of the court's jurisdiction was based: provided that facts were pleaded which could arguably found such a claim it was not fatal that the petition did not specifically identify them as such. Here an arguable case existed.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton & Co, Leeds, Broomhead, Sheffield.

contractual retiring age, but that it might be displaced by evidence that it was a statutory departure from practice.

Lord Fraser of Tullybelton said, at p 662: "...the evidence may show that the contractual retiring age has been superseded by some definite higher age, and if so, that will have become the normal retiring age. Or the evidence may show merely that the contractual retiring age has been superseded by some definite higher age, and if so, that will have become the normal retiring age. Or the evidence may show merely that the contractual retiring age has been superseded by some definite higher age, and if so, that will have become the normal retiring age."

Mr Hendy argued that even if there had been a change of policy so that the understanding that the normal retiring age would be 65 had been varied, it was necessary, in the light of Lord Fraser's speech, that it had to be superseded by a definite figure.

In the present case, Mr Hendy contended, the industrial tribunal had found that 62 to 63 years was a band of normal retiring age which covered a span of a year was the appropriate figure. He contended that that was not a definite figure and if there was no definite figure there could be no normal retiring age and the statutory alternative of 65 applied.

Mr John Hendy for Mr Swaine: Mr David Blunt for the employees.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the industrial tribunal found that the employee's contractual retirement age was 60 and the normal retiring age was 65 at the time he entered the Alkali Inspectorate in March 1958.

It was argued that whereas the contractual age of 60 did not alter, the normal retiring age did. In *Waltie v Government Communications Headquarters* (1983) 1 CR 653, the House of Lords held that the normal retiring age was *prima facie* the

contractual age, but that it might be displaced by evidence that it was a statutory departure from practice.

The appeal would be allowed and the case remitted for the question of unfair dismissal to be considered.

Solicitors: Casters, Treasury Solicitor.

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THE TIMES

Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
2	Bilim (J)	
3	Cole Aliman	
4	Diploma	
5	Broken Hill	
6	DPCE	
7	Chimes Int	
8	Ashley	
9	Brammer	
10	Dorland Stamp	
11	Beaton Clarke	
12	Electricals	
13	Ctn Elect	
14	AB Elect	
15	Odonics	
16	Emmett Lighting	
17	Procon	
18	BSR	
19	Tunstall Telecom	
20	Plester	
21	INDUSTRIALS E-Z	
22	Stothen & Pitt	
23	Whitecroft	
24	Sir Hurrell	
25	Wille Gp	
26	Swire Pacific 'A'	
27	Staffs Poteries	
28	Smiths Ind	
29	Widex	
30	Stockdale	
31	BUILDING AND ROADS	
32	Redland	
33	Meyer Int	
34	Costain	
35	RMC	
36	Taylor Woodrow	
37	Helical Bar	
38	BPB Industries	
39	Rugby Cement	
40	Armclife	

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

SHORTS (Under Five Years)		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

UNDATED		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

INDEX-UNLINKED		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

BANKS DISCOUNT HP		
1985	High	Low
1985	High	Low

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb.10. Dealings End Feb.21. Contango Day Feb.24. Settlement Day, March 3 & Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Late rally

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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Good news in US for UK software

By Geoff Wheelwright

The micro computer business in the US seems to be on the mend. Out of the ashes of the difficult past year have come reprieves for the likes of Commodore and good news for Apple and Compaq.

While Commodore is breathing a sigh of relief that it will not have to pay any money yet on its main loan agreement, and Apple celebrated the fact that it is making money again, there is a wry smile on the faces of the Texas natives at Compaq who recently celebrated record financial results.

But Compaq is not the only one celebrating. A quick tour of US software houses should put a smile on the face of British home computer software houses as the games-starved US market welcomes UK classics such as the Hobbit and Elite with open arms.

These are mixed with a few new US titles such as Jet (successor to the hugely successful flight simulator) and Mindscape's Deja Vu. But the style and tone of the British software really stands out against most other US offerings.

Part of the recent UK software success in the US stems from a growing move by US software houses not to write for what they see as old home computers such as the Commodore 64 and Apple II, concentrating instead on newer and more expensive machines.

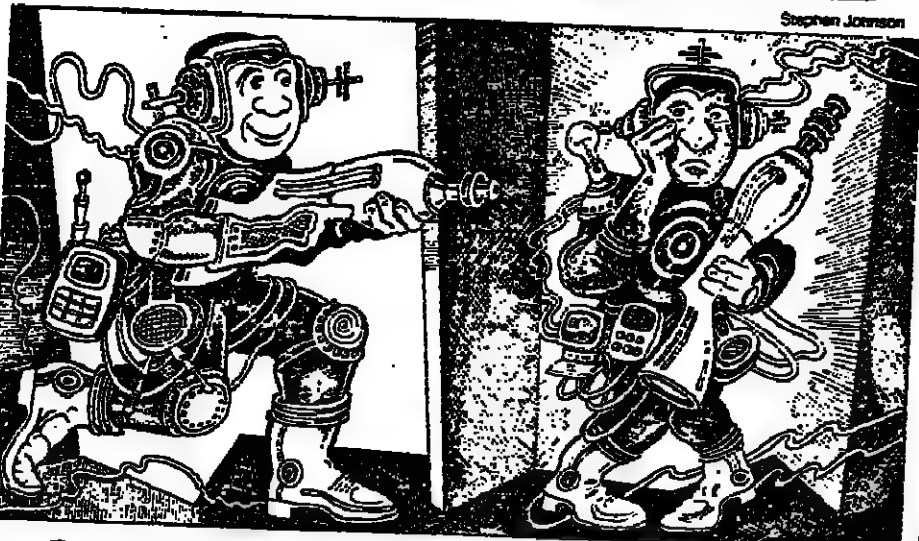
The Atari ST computers in particular have been getting a good deal of coverage in the US computer press these days as the machines were released in the US relatively recently - despite being announced in Europe almost a year ago. In Britain the company has made announcements of a series of new machines including two new versions of its 520ST computer expected to cost less than £500.

Both IBM and Compaq are expected to launch some form of portable computer. Apple is sure to announce yet more new Macintoshes and Apple II computers.

Two weeks ago the president of Apple International, Mike Spindler, promised that the company would announce an "open Macintosh" with IBM-style expansion design, colour and greater power to be unveiled this year - along with a more high-powered Apple II.

The company is not, however, expected to make any moves in the home market as Mr Spindler says he believes that proper support cannot be given to machines that sell for much less than \$1,000.

But the real waiting is still on IBM's laptop portable computer, the non-appearance of which is causing jitters among many competitors who have timed launches of so called compatible products to come just after the announcement they had expected in January. They may now feel a little nervous about entering this market.



Scoring points in fantasy land

From Peggy Anderson in Chicago

A new fantasy game is giving American adults a chance to indulge in fictional forays into deep space while zapping each other with toy ray guns.

The late 20th century "Dad's Army" is playing Photon. The game uses a six-minute clock with space-age trimmings.

People who fidget while watching science-fiction movies and want to grab their own laser weapons and stalk intergalactic bad guys find it a big attraction.

"It can be exciting. It can be frustrating," said Mike Hastings, 33, an air traffic controller in the US Air Force and, off duty, a regular player at the Photon Amusement Centre in Denver, one of five now operating.

Working out strategy for Photon is a challenge. "It gives you a good workout. If you're vigorous and really try to

score points you're going to be running all over the place," he said.

The game's computerized scoring system, keyed to the opposing team's helmets, chestplates and home base, gets high marks from Mr Hastings.

"When you're a kid and play army or cowboys and indians, you never had the opportunity to tell whether you zapped (shot) somebody," he recalled. "This provides an environment to play in and lets you know...how you did."

Photon isn't child's play. Players are decked out in 5lbs of gear - a computerized chest plate, helmets with stereo-phonetic headphones, a battery belt and a pistol bearing infra-red light.

In addition to the five operating centres in Dallas, Denver, Houston, Toronto and a New Jersey suburb, 94

are planned in North America and Japan by franchise holders. Teams compete on a 10,000 sq ft, two-level playing fields that is a warren of ramps, tunnels and hiding places.

A central column emits smoky "martial mist," music plays, focused beams of light sweep the haze. There is an observation deck for onlookers.

"I've heard some people say they think it's a way to get your anger out, but that's just not true," said the electronic equipment repairman, Ronnie Lesseraux, 20, who plays regularly as captain of a league team in Houston. "To me, it's just scoring points. It's not like shooting a gun."

Scores are kept for teams and individuals in each six-minute game, which costs \$3-\$3.50 a player.

All the news in an instant

At least the British information providers are taking the first cohesive steps towards establishing themselves as a credible industry. Three companies from diverse parts of that embryonic industry made significant moves last week to market and package information as a product.

They are the BBC, Mead Data Central International (US owned) and British Telecom.

Such a positive response has been well overdue. It was nearly three years ago when the Information Technology Advisory Panel (ITAP), attached to the Cabinet, recommended that information be developed as an industry and that the information providers - those with access to data which could be sold - should learn to package and sell it.

The ITAP group had called for a lead from government since it was in the position to inspire, being one of the principal sources of statistical data in the UK.

Within months of the ITAP report the Government responded, producing much rhetoric but no policy and the same amount of inspiration. British information providers thought they would go it alone and form a new industry.

The moves being made by the BBC and BT will have far more impact on that new industry than Mead, which is increasing the marketing of its service in Europe and information in the UK; which has successfully been sold in other parts of Europe, the US and Japan.

The BBC intends to use the spare lines not used by the television service to send information to the airwaves. The Ceefax service itself sends these spare from the 625 which are not needed to compose a television picture with sound. The Ceefax (and Or-

Sir Clive is back with new launch

By Matthew May

Sir Clive Sinclair's launch last week of a £180 version of the popular Spectrum home computer was accompanied by a barrage of surveys as the company tried to prove that the death of the home computer market has been greatly exaggerated.

Perhaps they had a point - sales of home computers in the UK last year topped one million units. Though demand in Britain is expected to decline by more than 20 per cent this year, it is predicted that overall European demand will remain steady over the next few years as the rest of Europe expands.

More than 400,000 of UK sales in 1985 have been credited to Sinclair machines and, says the company, sales last November and December exceeded those for the same period in 1984. The key factor for Sinclair is whether the company can produce at a price that ensures a healthy profit, yet competitiveness.

Sinclair largely produces his product in the UK unlike Amstrad, for example, which is shipping its £460 word processor from South Korea at a rate of 50,000 per month.

Last week Amstrad announced pre-tax profits for the second half of 1985 of £27.5 million, £7 million more than for the whole of the previous year. Computer sales were cited as the prime reason for its success. "We never stay in business where the margins aren't good enough," says Alan Sugar, chairman and managing director of Amstrad.

With its word processor, Amstrad have taken over Sinclair's earlier role of being a pacesetter and forcing the price of computers down.

Sinclair's new machine, the Spectrum 128, has a larger memory of 128K, improved sound and better animation. It was originally launched only in Spain last November as the company did not want to jeopardize the Christmas sales of its £130 Spectrum Plus, which had accumulated in embarrassing quantities in warehouses during the early part of last year.

The Spectrum 128 is a relatively safe option building, on the established success of earlier Spectrums. Sinclair is hoping that owners of the current model will upgrade, quoting a Gallup survey that 30 per cent of home computer sales are to households that already have a computer.

But the price of £180 is considered high at only £20 less than Amstrad's CPC 464 and Sinclair's QL micro, reflecting perhaps the need for healthy profit margins to pay principal creditors. So far, says Sir Clive, £10 million of the £15 million debt has been paid.

He also stressed that the new machine would be in the shops this week and that over 70 new or redesigned programs will be available. Programs for the current Spectrum will also run on the 128.

When the QL was originally launched there was considerable criticism at the months of delay before deliveries began, even though Sinclair was initially accepting money with orders. Software was also very slow to appear.

Sir Clive's return to more revolutionary products will come later this year with the launch of the Pandion portable, he says, will feature a flat screen design that gives the same quality as television.

Superchip could cut cost of storage

By Ian Dawson

Developments in Japan could revolutionize the storage of information on personal computers and mark the end of the disc drives widely used on microcomputers.

A new computer chip is being developed which will hold more than 30 times as much information as an IBM PC's floppy disc drive and will retain the stored information even when switched off. Such "non-volatile" chips already exist but have so far been unable to hold enough data to compete with disc drives.

If the company working on

the new high capacity memory chips, Citizen, succeeds, it claims the new chips will be more reliable and faster than magnetic storage units. Since chips have no moving parts to wear out, go out of adjustment or slow down, the electronic aspects of transferring information, the company's assertions ring true.

Whether the storage capacity of the chips is boosted enough to give them the competitive edge over disc drives remains to be seen. By 1990, when the parts are due to appear on the market, floppy disc drives may be able to match the chip's capacity.

Hard disc drives appear certain too.

Price is where Citizen's chips are most likely to compete. While admitting that exact prices are difficult to predict, the company believes that the first commercially available chips will sell for about £70. The typical cost of the floppy disc drives fitted to the IBM PC is between £100 and £250. Even if the trend for the cost of computer hardware to fall relative to its performance continues, it is hard to

envisage disc drives with the chip capacity selling for as little as £70.

By the time the memory chip is available, the disc drive industry is likely to be in a greater state of disarray than it is now. Matters came to a head among manufacturers in 1984 when big name players including Dyan encountered problems. Difficulties have continued, with one notable drive manufacturer, Tandem, turning to the production of a low cost IBM PC clone as a means of turning its fortunes.

The appearance of devices such as Citizen's is certain to pose a continuing challenge.

Boost in profits for IBM UK

IBM UK has announced a 60 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £308 million for 1985, a year in which IBM's total operations throughout the world were hard pressed to even equal 1984's profit. Turnover increased by 30 per cent to £3.04 billion, considerably higher than IBM's other European operations which increased by 17 per cent in West Germany and Italy and 13 per cent in France.

IBM UK is the only European subsidiary to manufacture its personal computer range which contributed heavily to the increase in turnover. IBM UK cited the careful management of costs and expenses as a factor in the profit rise but was also able to increase staff by 1,300 to 18,800 at a time when many other computer companies made redundancies.

The corporation would take the information provided by the client - racing news or changes in shop prices - and broadcast them at specific times in the day on the spare Ceefax lines.

British Telecom is also breaking new ground by offering a database service. Doubtless the corporation, now free from the bondage of being a public utility, has been inspired by the success of Reuters, whose financial services have transformed the group into a multi-million dollar company.

British Telecom intends to unveil the service at the end of the spring. The electronic information service, to be called Hotline, could make it the principal information service operator in the UK.

And what of Mead Data Central International? Although an American company, it could give the British industry the inspiration that it needs. The group's computer database has 30 million articles, with a further 65,000 articles added each week.

This electronic library contains information on legal, business and general and specialist news.

Similarly, the Thorn-EMI computer group Datasolve has been compiling such a library calling the information from The Times, Financial Times, Economist, The Guardian, BBC World Service and Pravda.

The newspaper industry, which is now at the beginning of a painful electronic revolution, is sitting on a goldmine. The "old" words printed years, if not decades, ago, still have value. They can become the core of the new databases of tomorrow and produce a valuable source of secondary income, which one day might become primary income, for quality newspapers.

Electric ABC

Parents who want to introduce their offspring to new technology as soon as possible can now buy a £34 word processing program which will work on BBC micros and is designed for primary school children. Features include a computerized dictionary that will work by groups of words, as well as alphabetically, large type and the ability to write straight away without needing to open files or work through menu screens.

Further information from Logotron (01-352 1088).

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Code revenge

The financial analyst Alvin Frost believed he was on the way out with Washington City Hall and found a novel way to get revenge. He changed the computer access code for the city's major accounts and now says he cannot remember it, so the accounts are blocked. He said the new code had something to do with the Declaration of Independence but he does not remember what.

City Hall is to appeal to the computer manufacturer to see if there is a supercode that will get around the new mastercode.

Hacker-cracker

A "hacker-cracker" has been developed to prevent outsiders from breaking into company computer systems. The unit, Response, can handle up to 1,200 users and takes calls to the computer, checks the password and then cuts the connection. It will, then automatically call back only on the authorized telephone number for that password.

"Password systems have been shown to be inadequate," says Roger Walton, marketing manager of Motorola Information Systems which will sell Response for £6,000.

Banks caught in Swift software snarl-up

By Eamonn Quinn

Nearly 1,300 users of a computerized message carrying network around the world were told last month that their revamped network would be delayed by up to one year. It had fallen foul of a "rescheduled delivery" date for the software needed to run the network.

The users in question are the banks, including 36 UK-owned institutions which have, in the past, built computer-driven systems such as the familiar high street cash machines that are linked to centralized mainframes.

They have received unwelcome publicity as the programs running them have crashed, leaving the machines unable to operate.

Banks use a network called Swift - the Society for World-

wide Interbank Telecommunications. The types of messages carried can range from inter-bank payment instructions to warnings of an impending staff strike at any bank in the many countries that the network serves.

The present network was due to become the much larger and faster Swift II from the middle of this year but has been put off to March next year as key parts of the software will not be available.

Attention is switching to putting in place contingency plans that allow the present network to handle the growing volume of transactions. German banks are likely to be the most seriously affected - they had relied on the early availability of the new network, whereas UK banks were not due to switch to it until later.

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CRICKET: INJURY MAY KEEP BOTHAM OUT OF FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL AGAINST WEST INDIES

Fast men have yet to hit the stumps

From Simon Wilde, Colombo

Interest here yesterday centred on how England's three fast bowlers would fare on a pitch which, it was thought, would benefit them more than most others they have met in Sri Lanka. Through a combination of factors, not all of them the fault of the bowlers, they had a frustrating day and took only one wicket between them. The Sri Lankans scored 161 for one in response to England's 369 for eight declared on the second day of the fourth four-day international.

The one wicket that fell came in Lawrence's first over. Wamaluwaru fending a ball limply into the hands of gully, Samarasekera and Madugalle never looked like giving in so easily, although Samarasekera was dropped when 31 and again when 91. The first of these misses was by Nicholas at slip off Cowans, who had struck the batsman a painful blow in the groin the previous ball. At the close Samarasekera was 103 not out, Madugalle was 43 and they had added 133 runs together.

Lawrence and Cowans have had little success on this tour and if there were any injury among the opening bowlers in West Indies neither could seriously come into the reckoning as a replacement. Cowans has taken only five wickets for 222 runs in 66 overs and Lawrence six for 427 in 107 overs. They have not hit the stump in a match since they got here.

In his first six overs yesterday Cowans looked hostile and caused problems to the batsmen, apart from having Samarasekera dropped. By his third over, though, he was a spent force and went for 17 runs in the first over.

Lawrence, too, produced awkward deliveries but was more erratic. In his second over he was warned for running down the line of the stumps and reminded of this again in his seventh, after which he went round the wicket. He then began to bowl no-balls but much more had Madugalle caught off one of these if it had been a legitimate ball.

Samarasekera rode his luck and, after moving from 34 to 40 with a hook for six off Cowans, began to produce a succession of majestic boundary strokes. There were 16 fours and one six in his century, which came off 130 balls and was reached with two consecutive fours off Tremlett. It was a display of great authority for a player of such limited experience.

England, who had been put in on Sunday, went on to their highest score of the tour before declaring. Sri Lanka were 161 for one at 11.55 on the first day.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

FA Cup

Fifth round replays

Arsenal v Luton Town P

Liverpool v York City

Millwall v Southampton

Scottish Cup

Fourth round

Dunfermline v Celtic P

Hamilton v Hearts

St Mirren v Falkirk

Scottish second division

Raith Rovers v Berwick

FREIGHT ROVER TROPHY

Southern section: Southampton United v Northampton

Northern section: Doncaster v Grimsby Town

GOLA LEAGUE

Altrincham v Barrow

Barnsley v Walsley

Barnsley v Walsley

Barnsley v Walsley

Barnsley v Walsley

Barnsley v Walsley

Barnsley v Walsley

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Delight for Emburey as he claims his only wicket, bowling the Jamaican tail-ender Daley

England need a man Friday

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Jamaica

England's preparations for today's one-day international against West Indies, the first of four scheduled for the tour, were clouded yesterday by doubts about the availability of Ian Botham, who had to leave the field on Sunday with a slight groin strain.

There has been a game yesterday, England's physiotherapist said that Botham would "have struggled to play".

It is in Botham's nature to rise from sick beds and to play through pain. He hates missing matches that matter. But he is going to have so much work to do in the next couple of months, all being well, that no-one will want to take a chance with him.

There is a Test match on Friday, and that is much more important than today's game. Consideration could be given to playing Botham only as a batsman, and leaving him to field at slip, but yesterday at any rate that was considered unlikely, mainly because it would mean Gooch or Gatting, or both, having to bowl.

Assuming the worst - that is, that Botham fails to make it - the last two bowling places would go, presumably, to either Edmonds or Emburey and Foster or Thomas. Although Edmonds was excellent on Sunday, when he took four for 44, he may be thought rather easier to get at than Emburey, aiming at the

batsmen's legs, would be. The straight boundaries at Sabina Park are still short enough to swing the vote Emburey's way.

Whether Botham plays or not, it is hardly conceivable that it will be anything other than a very difficult match for

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Northern Districts press on

Hamilton, New Zealand (AP)

Northern Districts were battling to survive at the close of play on the second day of a three-day match against the Australians yesterday. Beginning the day at 83 for one, Northern Districts moved to 167 before declaring with two wickets taken.

The Australians responded with a 153 for one declared, and by the close had Northern Districts in trouble at 131 for seven. The Australian left-arm spinner, Ray Bright, took five second-innings wickets for 42 runs in 18 overs.

It is in the spirit of things has worried anyone so far, it is obviously Gooch. More than once he has got out through a lapse of concentration, and his timing is proving elusive.

Because he was captain of the disappointed side to South Africa in 1982, his name is invariably the one on which the protesters have latched.

"The presence of Gooch and company merely sharpens those feelings of resentment towards the British government's interests in South Africa" by providing a tangible target on which to articulate these feelings," the *Daily Gleaner* columnist said.

Gooch has become a kind of foil. If he can live with that and yet make the runs that England so badly need of him, it will be a personal triumph.

As it will for Gower if he can overcome the battering he took here from Walsh on Saturday afternoon. For those who played against Jamaica yesterday's practice was optional. But Gower took part.

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Budding talent may be lost to England

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

It looks as if an attempt by the South African junior cross-country champion Terry Thornton to follow in Zola Budd's footsteps to an England team place and a tilt at a world cross-country title will fail, despite Thornton having a British passport.

Thornton, aged 18, who arrived in England two weeks ago from Port Elizabeth and joined Aldershot, Farnham and District, the same club as Budd, was a runaway winner in a Surrey League cross-country match at Coulsdon on Saturday. He was one minute and 20 seconds ahead of the second finisher, Mel Page, who was sixth in the southern senior championships the previous week.

Lofts said: "It would be a bit of a blow if he couldn't run, because I think Terry would win the national championship. His situation isn't the same as Zola Budd's, because he already has a British passport. The problem is that he has had offers from American universities, and if he

can't run in the national championships, he has an air ticket to the United States for March 1. It would be an absolute tragedy if this phenomenal talent falls through our hands."

Thornton was on his way yesterday to visit his grandmother in Preston, where he was born 18 years ago. He emigrated with his parents to South Africa when he was six, and has won both the South African under-17 and under-19 cross-country titles.

Europeans under fire

Mike Turner, the British team manager for this weekend's European indoor athletics championships in Madrid, has hit out at the organisers. Three days after competing in the top indoor meeting in Europe, many athletes will be expected to represent Britain against the Soviet Union at Moscow.

"At the European Fixture Congress in October delegates seemed to grab at fixtures in case someone else filled the date. Decisions were made under odd conditions and I hope it will not happen again," he said.

Bubka wins

Rosemont, Illinois (AP) — Sergei Bubka cleared 5.81 metres on Sunday to win the pole vault at the Bally Invitational meeting but failed in three attempts to beat the world indoor best. He was the only one of three vaulters who have broken the world indoor best in the past six weeks to compete in the event.

Bubka, who holds the outdoor record of 6.00 metres, said that he missed because he was not accustomed to the wooden surface. "The runway was too short for me and it prevented me from setting the world record," he said.

Billy Olson, of the United States, holder of the indoor best at 5.93 metres, was reported to be too tired to compete. Joe Falal, of the United States, did not compete because his poles had not arrived from New York.

"I think Billy Olson as a sportsman leaves much to be desired," Bubka said. "My physical shape is much better than his. He will have to improve his qualities to become a worthy rival of mine."

MEET Pole vault: 1. S. Bubka (USSR), 5.81m; 2. V. Belskiy (USSR), 5.61m; 3. D. Falal (USA), 5.51m; 4. M. Corley (USA), 5.31m; 5. L. Long (USA), 5.21m; 6. J. Falal (USA), 5.11m; 7. P. Soderberg (Sweden), 5.01m; 8. J. Howard (USA), 4.91m; 9. M. O'Leary (USA), 4.81m; 10. J. Howard (USA), 4.71m; 11. S. Adams (USA), 4.61m; 12. M. Keating (Ireland), 4.51m.

SNOOKER

Parrott is a talking point again

John Parrott, aged 21, from Liverpool, who had been in the limelight in recent months, moved into the fifth round of the Duxbury British open championship at Derby yesterday with a smooth 5-0 victory over Patsy Fagan, the London-based Irishman.

Fagan, who was the winner of the first UK championship in 1977 and who had beaten Willie Thorne 10-6 last year in the first round of the Embassy world championship, was out of touch and showed only brief glimpses of his true capabilities.

Parrott, without making any sizeable breaks, built solidly on his advantages; his highest break, 32, came in the third frame. Fagan offered some resistance in the fifth frame with a break of 26 but was unable to sustain his effort.

Thorne underlined his breakthrough potential on the adjoining table against Perrie Mans, of South Africa. Mans looked as if he would give Thorne some trouble with his accuracy and shrewd tactics but Thorne nipped in to take the first frame by clearing the last three balls on the table.

Thorne made a break of 75 in the second frame, 64 in the third and 57 in the fourth to go 4-1 ahead.

Steve Davis, the world's number one, drew attention on Sunday night not merely because of his convincing victory over Dave Martin in the fourth round. What he said afterwards was more significant.

In an open condemnation of his own performances this season, he said that he had won two tournaments, the Rothmans grand prix and the Coral UK championship despite playing badly. Recent defeats by Jimmy White and Tony Meo and a loss to Steve Davis in the first round of the World Snooker Championship were the only ones he mentioned.

"After watching video recordings with his father of my matches he had played over the last two years, Davis said that he had discovered a technical fault in his play on which he was not prepared to elaborate. He apparently put the matter straight, judging by the authority of his performance on Sunday.

"I played well enough, but there is no guarantee that I will play as well again next time," he said. "You can never master this game; that's what makes it so frustrating and yet so fascinating. You are always learning."

His aim is to recapture the form he acquired in 1983 when he won the Jamison title at Newcastle and went on to retain the world championship at Sheffield. He was at his best then but he now intends to be "better than ever before".

Terry Griffiths, who defeated Neal Foulds 5-1, seems also to have emerged a period of resurgence. After winning the Belgian Masters at Ostend he retained his Welsh title at Aberllynnydd where he defeated Doug Mountjoy 9-3. These successes apparently wound him up for fluent break-building against Foulds.

Griffiths made a clearance break of 69 in the third frame and a 104 clearance in the sixth before Foulds fought back to cut the lead to 4-3. But Griffiths took command again and emerged a decisive winner. He and Davis approach the coming world championship at Sheffield from April 19 to May 5 with renewed confidence.

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Connors is left to lift morale

From Richard Evans

Boca Raton

American tennis continues to be a source of some embarrassment to a nation used to success. Although the courts here are unusually slow, cement is supposed to be the surface on which American players thrive but only four of them reached the last 16 of the Lipton International men's championship.

Last year, on slightly faster courts, two Americans, Tim Mayotte and Scott Davis, reached the final. Only the ageing veteran, Jimmy Connors, seems to have a real chance of progressing further in a field which has seen nine Europeans through to the fourth round.

Jimmy Arias would appear to have little chance against Ivan Lendl, the No 1 seed, and another American, Marty Davis, also faces a difficult match against Stefan Edberg, the fifth seed. The fourth American, David Pate, has already come out to the Czechoslovak, Milan Srejber. Connors, on present form, should beat Thierry Tulasne, the Frenchman who put out Brad Gilbert, the only American to have made any progress this year.

The Wimbledon referee, Alan Mills, who is in charge here also, was faced with one of those decisions all referees dread. Intermittent rain kept interrupting the evening play, sending players scurrying off court three times in half an hour. "We had to make a decision," Connors said. "The Association of Tennis Professionals road manager, explained, 'You cannot go messing players around.'"

The problem was that Mills and Selmi made their decision

TENNIS: RETURN OF THE BECKER PROTOTYPE AND ARRIVAL OF THE LAVER CLONE

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The problem was that Mills and Selmi made their decision

about five minutes too early. Almost at the same moment as they decided to cancel play for the night the rain stopped, the clouds cleared and a few hundred spectators were left sitting under a brilliant Florida moon wondering why they were being denied the tennis they had come to see.

MEET SREJBER: Third round: 1. Lendl (CZ) vs G. Horikawa (USA), 6-4, 7-6, 6-4; 2. W. Riederer (GER) vs D. Pate (USA), 7-6, 6-4, 6-4; 3. S. Srejber (CZE) vs M. Srejber (CZE), 6-4, 7-6, 6-4.

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RUGBY UNION

How England missed an opportunity for a vital conversion

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

One of the sadder aspects of Saturday's Calcutta Cup game, in which England presented such a sorry face, was that it will do nothing to attract those youngsters in England who may be turning to other pursuits. In conversation on the eve of the game Martin Green, England's coach, agreed with the suggestion that the shop window presented by the international championship must be made as attractive as possible to help stop a drift away from the game.

The potency of television as an advertising medium is not in doubt. In recent years it has given basketball and American football a massive lift, while rugby league has benefited from the televised presence of the Australians and some outstanding Challenge Cup fixtures.

Rugby Union, with the exception of last season's Australians, has not had much of a product to offer, though Scotland, after destroying England 33-6, may be some way down the road to improving that situation.

Wales have an exciting back division to offer while Ireland, even in defeat, cut a decent dash at the weekend. England, on Saturday's evidence, offer little more than raw courage. They can play better, and they will, but it is no use expecting the selectors to start turning the selectors to start turning their wood as no more fruitful.

The team to play Ireland at Twickenham on March 1 will be known after the weekend and there must be many crossed fingers that the weather will relent and allow club games to be played. One man

at least, Hall, will not be chosen a broken thumb has ruled him out and if Bath are in the fortunate position of having Simpson, another international, to replace him in the back row, England may look elsewhere.

Two obvious names come to mind: Philip Moss, the Orrell and England B blind-side flanker, and Peter Cook, the Nottingham player who had such a good divisional championship.

Welsh defeat

Wales' march towards the Miller Buckley universities championship was halted by Ireland at the weekend. Having won their first two games, against England and Scotland, the Welsh universities went down 20-7 at Trinity College, Dublin in what was the first game of the championship for the Irish students. Scotland's game with England at Rarburn Place was frozen off by the weather and it is hoped to play the game on March 3, three days after England universities play Ireland at the Stoop Memorial Ground.

Alternatively, there remains the possibility of playing flankers left and right, as the French are doing this season, rather than open and blind. This would leave the way clear for the return of Ross, the other Nottingham flanker, although there are many noted exponents of back-row play who do not favour the attempted conversion of an acknowledged open-side to the other side of the scrum.

There must be a prospect of Richards, the Leicester No. 8,

stepping up instead of the other Midlander, Robbins, and if the back row is to be altered en masse, a home international against a team which has already lost twice may be the place to do it. England will know Ireland's selection tomorrow; the Welsh team to play France at Cardiff on the same day will be announced on Friday.

The triumphant Scots can rest temporarily from their labours. Their selectors meet today to choose a B team to play France at Villefranche-sur-Saône on March 2 but their remaining five nations match is against Ireland in Dublin on March 15, by which time they will know whether a shared championship is the best they can hope for.

The other noteworthy feature of the game at Murrayfield was the pressing necessity for a meeting of international referees to discuss a common approach to next year's world tournament. Interpretations have fluctuated so wildly this season that players must know where they stand (or fall) by early summer so that the proper preparations can be made by both northern and southern hemisphere countries.

The set piece has seldom dominated southern hemisphere thinking and if like the French, officials from that part of the world can ignore it, they will. But players in Australia and New Zealand next year are going to be playing a minimum three internationals in 11 days and if they play one way on Saturday, they are not allowed the same practices on Wednesday, we are in for a sour world tournament.

Irish eyes on A N Other

By George Ace

It is a near certainty that the ubiquitous A.N. Other will appear at left wing in the Ireland side to meet England at Twickenham on Saturday week when the line-up is announced in Dublin tomorrow.

Whether or not Keith Crossan, who will be watched by the selectors on Saturday, satisfies them as to his fitness to join the line-up is another matter. Crossan, who returned to rugby at the weekend with an instantaneous injury, said yesterday: "I feel good but it was difficult for me on Saturday."

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BOXING



The winner: Livingstone Bramble salutes victory with his son, Alunah

Bramble buckles against apartheid

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Reno, Nevada (Reuters) — Livingstone Bramble, the World Boxing Association lightweight champion, pummeled the leading contender, Tyrone Crawford, on Sunday in a one-sided bout on a technical knockout late in the 13th round.

The end did not come suddenly. Crawford was a game but thoroughly beaten opponent when Bramble landed a left-right combination, snapping back Crawford's head and moving him towards his own corner.

Seconds later Crawford's knees buckled and he went down. The referee counted six, and the referee, Joey Curtis, allowed Bramble a few more blows before he ended the bout.

Bramble, aged 25, showed no ill-effects from a one-year lay-off in the convincing victory. At the 9th 9th rank, he was relentless, always moving forward, concentrating on the body for the first four rounds.

When Crawford's hands came down to protect his ribs, he moved up, landing rights to the head.

The win gives Bramble a record of 24 wins, one draw and one defeat, with 15 knockouts. He said later: "The referee, light-weight champion of the world, I fought a great fight. I was in the best shape of my life. I did not look pretty, but I got the job done."

Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association heavy-weight No.1 from South Africa, hit out at apartheid yesterday. Coetzee, who is in London for his world title eliminator against Frank Bruno at Wembley on March 4, told a press conference that black, white and coloured people should join hands to live together, walk together and fight together.

"People should join hands to live together, walk together and fight together," he said. He hoped that anti-apartheid groups would not protest against his visit.

"That would leave a sour taste," he said. "If you stop people competing against each other you are making apartheid permanent."

Coetzee, who is accompanied by a black sparring partner, James Dixon, from Chicago, and his black protégé, Benny Kasai, a 21-year-old South African lightweight, said: "I cannot say what it feels like to be black. I never knew anything about apartheid until I was 19."

Coetzee had imagined that black and white people lived separately everywhere in the world. "Travelling opened lots of doors for me," he said. "It was only when I went to New York and saw black and white people walking about the streets together that I realized how crazy it all was."

The promoter of the Wem-

GOLF

Skill in awkward positions helps Langer's progress

From John Ballantine, Honolulu

Bernhard Langer, the European No. 1, who is earning by far the greatest share of the foreign limelight here in the regrettable absence of that other lion of Europe, Severiano Ballesteros, had another strong finish in the Hawaiian Open on Sunday. This resulted in part from his marvellous long game and in part from his skill, which he shares with the Spaniard, in conjuring the ball near the flag sticks from awkward positions.

In the end at Waialae his challenge, which had been serious at the turn, faded rather despite his making another couple of birdies and ending with a very solid 68.

The 80°F sunshine, tempered by a steady breeze, undoubtedly helped the German to overcome the disadvantage of a muscle strain which he first felt on Monday but which he thought was caused by the long air journey from the mainland, followed by the carrying of heavy suitcases from the airport. One's immediate feeling was that a man who has won more than \$130,000 from six events should be able to afford portage on these occasions.

Nick Faldo was also in contention at one point for a huge prize, but the hole where a two-stroke swing occurred, and which somehow typified the difference between Faldo and Langer, was the 508-yard thirteenth, a dogleg with a stand of palm trees and a bunker at the elbow. Faldo drove into the sand trying to cut the corner and

could only play safe out of a bog hole. His third shot ran off the green and from 10 yards he toiled three more, finally missing from four feet to take a six.

Langer took the longer route driving far away from the corner and hitting the front of the green with a long iron. From about 30 yards he hit up to 3 feet and got his birdie four.

Both players know well how valuable strokes are at this stage, often being worth thousands of dollars. The difference between the two, in other words, is that Faldo's swings like a Rolls Royce's giant cylinders effortlessly grinding out the miller while Langer's has a quicker Porsche-like action which is capable of quick bursts of acceleration.

However, what a marvellous season Langer has had so far. Fifth on the money list before Hawaii, he was denied victory in a play-off in San Diego by inspired play from the new comer, Bob Tway. Surely Langer cannot be very long before he wins a third title. After a week in Australia he returns at Dorset in Miami on March 6, followed by a week at his American home in Florida.

FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 27 C. Fries, 67, 72, 66, 70, 263; 28 B. Langer, 67, 74, 67, 68, 272; 29 Nick Faldo, 69, 71, 69, 72, 281; 30 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 31 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 32 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 33 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 34 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 35 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 36 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 37 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 38 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 39 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 40 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 41 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 42 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 43 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 44 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 45 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 46 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 47 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 48 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 49 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 50 J. Ballesteros, 67, 72, 69, 72, 279; 51 J. 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FOOTBALL: COUNTDOWN TO THE WORLD CUP FOR ENGLAND HOPEFULS

Hateley gives his rivals a chance

By Stuart Jones

Within minutes of announcing a party of 22 for the international match in Israel next Wednesday, England's manager was rewriting his cast. It is a tediously familiar tale. Bobby Robson has been forced to amend so many of his scripts over the last three years that he should seek a sponsor for his pencil sharpener.

At least the changes have so far been minimal. Yesterday he had merely to erase the name of one Italian exile, Hateley, of AC Milan, and insert that of another, Cowans, of Bari. With a sense of timing that is more than unfortunate, Hateley will be in hospital, for an operation that has been delayed, rather than

England squad

P. Shilton (Southampton), G. Bailey (Manchester United), B. Woodcock (Norwich), V. Anderson (Aston Villa), G. Stevens (Everton), K. Sansom (Aston Villa), T. Butcher (Sheff Wed), A. Martin (West Ham United), M. Wright (Southampton), T. Fenwick (Queen's Park Rangers), B. Robson (Manchester United), P. Hodge (Aston Villa), S. Hodge (Aston Villa), R. Williams (AC Milan), G. Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Lineker (Everton), M. Hateley (AC Milan), K. Dixon (Chelsea), A. Woodcock (Aston Villa), P. Beardsley (Newcastle United), G. Waddle (Tottenham Hotspur), J. Barnes (Watford).

FA Cup draw

Derby or Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham or Manchester United
Preston or Brighton v Southampton or Millwall
York or Liverpool v Watford or Bury
Luton or Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur

(To be played on March 8)

in Tel Aviv this weekend.

In electing to have his tonsils out, Hateley has let in not so much Cowans as those challenging for his position at the head of England's attack. Whoever is picked alongside Lineker, now considered to be a certain member of the line-up in Mexico this summer, will regard his selection as an unexpected opportunity.

Woodcock, the most experienced candidate with 41 caps, is currently not even considered a permanent fixture in his own club side, Arsenal. Although he featured in the 2-2 draw at Luton Town in the FA cup fifth round tie on Saturday, his recent absence is significant. His manager, Don Howe, happens to be the England coach.

Dixon, with four goals in his



Bound for Israel: The Everton players, Steven, Stevens, Reid and Lineker celebrate their England call-up

three full appearances so far, is more similar in style and method to Hateley but he has not been playing for his club either. He has been idle since ridding a stomach muscle early in Chelsea's home defeat to Liverpool in the FA Cup fourth round three weeks ago.

Beardsley, although playing regularly for Newcastle United, will be pleasantly surprised even to be retained by his country. He is aged 25 but his international career is only some 30 minutes old. It began when he came on for the injured Lineker and created England's fourth and final goal against Egypt last month.

Wallace, the other debutant in Cairo, marked the occasion by claiming the third but is omitted to make way for Barnes, the youngest representative in the squad, and Waddle, neither of whom were then available. Nor were Hodge and Stewart Robson who were originally included but were excluded. Watson and Hill are also dropped.

Anderson, Bailey, Butcher, Hoddle, Reid and Bryan Robson are recalled and four of them are expected to start against Israel. Butcher, who

has not been able to appear in any of England's four fixtures this season, should come in for the disturbingly erratic Wright to partner the more dependable Fenwick at the centre of the defence.

Hoddle, as he confirmed during last summer's tour in Mexico City, could be England's most influential individual during the World Cup finals. Reid, ruled out for five months with a damaged Achilles tendon, is a more positive anchor than Wilkins, who is certain to lose his role as captain to Bryan Robson.

Hoddle, Reid and Bryan Robson formed the midfield in the 3-0 victory over the enfeebled West Germans in Mexico last June and in the 1-1 home draw against Romania in September.

Only three more practice matches remain before the England party leave early in May for their training camp in Colorado. It would thus make more sense for the genuine preparations to begin and to link the trio with Steven, who opened the scoring in Egypt to maintain his notable striking rate of a goal every other game.

The formation must be used as a cloak of deception. Robson cannot begin to think about unveiling it until the 22 are ready to board the flight next Sunday. Before then almost all of them are scheduled to play two games but for once his squad may have spent a relatively restful week.

The prospect of the FA Cup fifth round being completed within the next few days is buried beneath eight frozen pitches. Five of the ties involve members of the England party but the Football Association stated yesterday that, if any replays are required, they will not be staged before March 3.

Club fixtures, which took priority during the trip to Egypt, are to be delayed if necessary because next week will be necessary for international matches. Robson may have been spared that complication but, if the Cup or Canon League games are held, he must fear that his players may be injured, particularly as the surfaces will be as hard as iron.

Arsenal and Everton, responsible for supplying more

than a third of his outfield choices, are supposed to be taking on Luton and Tottenham Hotspur respectively in the Cup and then meeting opponents on Saturday who can scarcely be considered gentle. They are due to face Chelsea and Liverpool in derbies that are traditionally ferociously competitive.

Arsenal and Everton could yet collide in the sixth round of the FA Cup at Highbury. Yesterday they were paired together in a draw that overflowed with possibilities. Derby County were given enough incentive to make the most of home advantage against Sheffield Wednesday. They will stay at the Baseball Ground to entertain either West Ham United or Manchester United.

Liverpool, the favourites not only to dismiss York City in the replay at Anfield, but also to win the trophy itself, will probably be visited by Watford. Brighton, similarly expected to triumph in their return match against Peterborough, would entertain either Millwall or Southampton at the Goldstone Ground on March 8.

Bingham picks part-timer

By George Ace

Mark Caughey, a big, strong-running winger who plays part-time football for Linfield, is unexpectedly included in the Northern Ireland squad for the game against France in Paris a week tomorrow, the first of three World Cup warm-up fixtures. Two who played in Northern Ireland's last match against England, Ian Stewart, of Newcastle United, and Nigel Worthington, of Sheffield Wednesday, are playing reserve team football after injuries and were not considered.

Caughey, who has scored 13 goals this season, his first with Linfield, is a 25-year-old police man. He said yesterday: "I thought it was only paper talk when I read I was being called up. I thought it was only a joke. It is up to me now to prove I have what it takes and convince the manager that I should be a part of the squad in Mexico."

Bingham said: "I watched Caughey against Carrick Rangers recently and I want to have another look at him. He is big and strong and is the type of player I am looking for."

Bingham is almost certain to give Colin Clarke a run in Paris.

Clark, a forward with Bournemouth, has been in the squad on four previous occasions but has still to play a game. He is expected to play against France in Paris a week tomorrow, the first of three World Cup warm-up fixtures. Two who played in Northern Ireland's last match against England, Ian Stewart, of Newcastle United, and Nigel Worthington, of Sheffield Wednesday, are playing reserve team football after injuries and were not considered.

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Yugoslav decision imminent

England's strongest rivals in the qualifying tournament of the European Nations Cup, Yugoslavia, are still without a team manager. The appointment is expected to be made next Saturday, when the technical commission of the Yugoslav Football Federation meet.

However, since Milos Milutinovic resigned after his team's disappointing elimination from the World Cup, no name has been officially put forward. There is talk that Miljan Miljankovic, once wanted by Chelsea and Arsenal, will return from the barren United Arab Emirates to be general manager, assisted by one of two distinguished former Yugoslav forwards, Osim or Jerkovic. Boskov and Jovic, both working in Italy, are other possibilities although Jovic has already said he wants to stay with Avellino. Stanjovic, manager of the Turkish international team, is another candidate. Sajter, the new president of the federation, says he wants a manager with Miljankovic's claim. Stanjovic's authority and Osim's concept of football.

Whoever takes over is likely to find that two of his players, the Vujovic brothers, will have left for Bordeaux, with Slikskovic, their Hajduk clubmate and general of the Yugoslav midfield, eagerly awaiting his 28th birthday to follow them abroad.

The least expected choice in the party of Brazilian World Cup possibilities announced by the reappointed manager, Tele Santana, is Doreen, the 34-year-old, who will be 34 years old in June. Surprising, that is, to followers in Brazil rather than in Italy, where Doreen has been having an astonishingly successful season for a far from illustrious club, in picking Doreen, Santana.

When some action of a kind of ancestor worship, is going back not just one World Cup, but two. It was, in fact, in 1978 in Argentina that the country's strategy and superb left-footed shooting did so much to gain Brazil third place.

No fewer than seven members of the present Selecao team have been chosen in the party. This means a return to the international squad for Falcão, whose old midfield partner with Romario, Cerezo, is also among those nominated. Though Cerezo is playing exceedingly well in a Roma team which put five goals past Avellino on Sunday, the goalkeeper since the two games in which he would like to play come on either side of Roma's vital championship encounter with Fiorentina.

The Roma president, Senatore Dine Viola, has refused to resign despite recently being found guilty of trying to bribe the referee of Roma v Dundee United in the European Cup semi-final of 1984. But although the Italian Federation's Statute of Limitations saved him from actual punishment, he is not yet out of the wood: neither is his club. On February 26, at an

official meeting of UEFA, the president of the Italian Football Federation, Federico Sordillo, says he intends to present a full report of the case. In Italy it is generally expected that Roma will receive a ban from European competition.

Brazilian manager, Tele Santana, is Doreen, the 34-year-old, who will be 34 years old in June. Surprising, that is, to followers in Brazil rather than in Italy, where Doreen has been having an astonishingly successful season for a far from illustrious club, in picking Doreen, Santana.

Weld has strong Triumph hand

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Dermot Weld rode the American bred Son of Ivor as his No.1 candidate for next month's Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham, although a minor training accident kept him from competing in Sunday's Wexford Cable Champion Hurdle.

If by any chance there should be a recurrence of this injury Weld would have a very solid substitute in Dan Raven, who completed a triple in the Stirlington Four Year Old Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday.

This race was run at an absurdly slow pace and this simplified the task of the odds-on favourite, who on the flat last season had easily the best record of any of the runners.

Coming to the final flight Derk Raven moved up to join Abbey Glen and on the run-in quickened to go right away and win handsomely.

Earlier in the day Irish hopes of a victory in another major Cheltenham contest, the Sun Alliance Hurdle, slumped through the failure of another odds-on favourite Field Conqueror to take the Greenfield Novice Hurdle.

For a winner of two starts under National Hunt rules Field Conqueror looked very well treated by the conditions of this event, but surprisingly made little impression on Caddy, who had not previously managed to win a race since jumping.

Now he, too, must be having second thoughts for Canute Express scored in the style of a stalling horse whereas Field Conqueror, racing over a distance calculated to bring out the best in him, did not jump with the fluency one associates with a National Hunt Festival winner.

Leopardstown results

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All salaries for the above positions are entirely negotiable.

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Law Personnel

For more information about these and other interesting positions please call Carol or Alex on 01-242 0785

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The right applicant would be expected to: 1. Be qualified as a solicitor or barrister 2. Have experience in the life and pensions industry 3. Be appointed Secretary of M&G Life Assurance Company Limited and M&G Pensions and Annuity Company Limited. Initially, responsibilities would be drafting and vetting all legal contracts, working of policies and transfers, secretarial duties, product development, branch properties. The applicant would be expected to work in the Administrative Office in Chelmsford. Salary - according to age and experience.

Please write to or telephone: Richard R. Cook, Managing Director, M&G Assurance Group Limited, Three Queens, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-629 4582, ext. 250.



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Application forms should be returned by Monday 2nd March 1986.

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If you have true professional commitment and can think creatively, we would like to tell you about the terms and career prospects we have to offer.

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Which?

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Applications should be accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae and a recent photograph and addressed to:

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IFPI SECRETARIAT
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Excellent salary and benefits.
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We can offer you first class career prospects, a friendly working atmosphere in a modern office together with a competitive salary.

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Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

LINKLATER & PAINES

McKenna & Co

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You should have a good academic record, have been qualified for at least two years and have gained relevant experience, preferably with a City firm.

This position offers a challenging opportunity to become actively involved in the further development of this side of the practice.

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Please apply with full Curriculum Vitae to:-

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WC2R 0HP.

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We are seeking two experienced practitioners (up to and including partnership level) to participate in and promote the development of our substantial commercial property department.

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Expansion is rapid and the quality of both the transactions and required expertise is high with commensurate prospects and salary levels.

Please write in confidence to: Roger Buck, Berwin Leighton, Adelaide House, London Bridge, London EC4R 9HA.

BERWIN LEIGHTON

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We seek an enthusiastic and committed litigator to join our team specialising in personal injury and related matters—here ability and personality are more important than length of experience.

To arrange an interview in London or Plymouth ring John Price on 0752 266633 or write to him at 1 The Crescent, Plymouth PL1 3AE.

KIRKLEES Magistrates' Court Committee Huddersfield Magistrates' Court

Trainee Court Clerk

Salary not less than £2,750

Applications are invited for the above post from persons who wish to train for a professional career in the Magistrates' Court service. Articles of clerkship are available to suitable candidates. The successful candidate will receive thorough training and can expect to graduate to a higher salary scale, subject to satisfactory progress. Huddersfield has a modern purpose built court house providing a very good working environment and is convenient for those with a car. The post is a full time position and is open to both men and women. The post holder will be expected to assist in the running of the court. The post holder will be expected to assist in the running of the court. The post holder will be expected to assist in the running of the court.

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Our clients - ranging from small provincial law firms to major City practices - seek company/commercial lawyers at all levels of experience to handle a wide range of matters including corporate finance, securities, mergers and other more general company/commercial work. In some cases full training will be given to candidates and often there is the opportunity of secondment to branch offices abroad. If you have a good academic background and would like to know more about the positions offered, please contact:-

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Tel: 01-423 4295

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A total remuneration package in excess of £20,000, including profit-related bonus, plus company car is offered for this important post. The benefits package includes staff discounts and a subsidised staff restaurant. Please send a detailed CV including salary progression, to:-

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The University is seeking to appoint a Professor who has teaching and research abilities in accounting and who, for preference, is professionally qualified. Other things being equal, candidates with interests in modern financial theory or financial accounting and management will be preferred.

Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Room 212, Whiteknights House, P.O. Box 217, The University, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AH. The closing date for applications is 21 March 1986.

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Applicants are invited for the newly created post of Computer Services Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the organisation and management of the College's computer services equipment, campus network and staff within the context of the University of London service on which the College also relies. Applicants should have appropriate experience of computer service provision either in a university or other research oriented environment. A systems programming background would be an advantage. Appointment will be at a point on the scale for Grade III for Other Related Staff £15,947. £19,712 (a inclusive of London Allowance) under new benefits include 31 days holiday, full pension and sickness benefits, and season ticket from school. Further details from the Assistant Secretary (Personnel) (C.S.M.), Birbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX (Tel 01-431 6529), to whom application including full C.V. and names of two referees should be sent. Applicants who wish to discuss the post may contact Professor Peter King (01-631 6375).

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The successful candidates will have a sound knowledge of computer science, a good understanding of mathematics and the ability to program in Pascal and/or C, under MS/DOS or UNIX.

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Applicants should write, enclosing their CV to:

Ziegler Instruments GMBH,
POSTFACH 20 14 65,
D-4050 MOENCHENGLADBACH 2,
WEST GERMANY

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Cereflex AM.
6.50 Breakfast Time with
Sally Scott and Mike
Smith in the London studio
and Frank Bough at
Queen Alexandra's
Hospital, Portsmouth, for
the second morning
report. Today he is in the
children's ward. Weather
at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25
and 8.55; regional news,
weather and travel at 8.57,
7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; sport
at 7.20 and 8.20; and a
review of the morning
news at 8.37. Plus,
Junior Advice line at 7.32
followed by the adult
version approximately an
hour later. Alan
Titchmarsh with gardening
hints and Lynn Christian
with a recipe.

9.20 Cereflex 10.30 Play
School. 10.50 Cereflex
12.30 News After Noon with
Richard Whitmore and
Frances Corderale.
Includes 10.55
Regional news and
weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Jane
Lomas with the latest
fashions for the mother-to-
be and what trendy young
toys are wearing this
season. Dr David Davlin
continues his series on
anti-natal care. 1.45

2.00 The Good Kitchen.
Shirley Goode prepares
a 'Polish' or, as it
is less politely known,
garbage soup, makes
crisps from potato
peelings, vegetable
straw, and a two-tier
wedding cake. 2.15
The Parent Programme.
Inexpensive ways of
keeping the under-fives
entertained. 2.30 Cereflex
3.55 Regional news.

3.55 Postman Pat (P) 4.10
Jimbo and the Jet Set.
Cartoon series. 4.15
Jeopardy. Christopher
Guard reads the second
part of Stig of the Dump.
4.25 Benenden. 4.30
The Really Wild Show. Terry
Nicholas, Nick Davies and
Chris Packham answer
another selection of young
viewers' nature questions.

5.00 John Craven's
Newswatch. 5.10 Grange
Hill. Episode 13. It is half
term and Robbie and
Ziggy take in the sights of
London. (Cereflex)

5.35 Hospital Watch. More live,
human drama. 5.45
Portsmouth's St Mary's
and Queen Alexandra's
hospitals.

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and
Nicholas Witchell. Weather
6.35 London Plus.
7.00 Holiday. Sarah Kennedy
reports from Benidorm on
the effect of stricter
policing of the place. John
Carlar takes a cruise
along the Nile; and Bill
Buckley takes a five-day
gilding course in Yorkshire.

7.30 An important
decision. (Cereflex)
8.00 One by One. Episode
three and the move to the
Safari Park garden.
(Cereflex)

8.50 Points of View.
9.00 A Party Political
Broadcast on behalf of the
Labour Party.

9.10 News with Julia Somerville
and John Humphrys.
Weather.

9.40 Highway. Episode two of
the thriller and Ron Moody
joins the cast as a
detective making low-key
enquiries into Wright's
sudden disappearance from
the Camden Town area.
(Cereflex)

10.30 Hospital Watch. An update
of the day's activities in
the two Portsmouth
hospitals.

11.00 Film 86. Arthur Norman
reviews Commando,
Agnes of God, and Mr
Love. In addition, Bette
Davis talks about her life
and career on the eve of
receiving the Lifetime
Achievement Award in
France.

11.30 Nothing But the Best. A
parents' guide to
secondary education.

11.55 Weather.

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain,
presented by Nick Owen
and Anneka Rice.
Exercises with 20
minutes with Gordon Honeycombe
at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00,
8.30 and 9.00; sport at
8.35 and 9.35; regional
report at 7.15; cartoon at
7.24; pop video at 7.55;
film review at 8.34; Moya
Doherty's reunions at
8.45; Julie Brown
interviews Paul Hardcastle
at 8.10.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines.
9.30 For Schools: memory -
for the hearing impaired. 9.50
The natural history of a
valley. 10.08 The different
ways animals move. 10.25
German conversation for
beginners. 10.48 Politics -
local and national.
Includes 10.55
Computers in everyday life.
11.27 All about air. 11.44
Travelers talk about their
way of life.

12.00 Buxton Moon. Puppet
adventures of the Spoon
family. 12.10 Rainbow.
Learning made fun with
puppets (P) 12.30 The
Subliminal.

1.00 News at One with Leonard
Parkin. 1.20 Thames news.
1.30 The Good Kitchen.
Shirley Goode prepares
a 'Polish' or, as it
is less politely known,
garbage soup, makes
crisps from potato
peelings, vegetable
straw, and a two-tier
wedding cake. 2.15
The Parent Programme.
Inexpensive ways of
keeping the under-fives
entertained. 2.30 Cereflex
3.55 Regional news.

2.00 The Good Kitchen.
Shirley Goode prepares
a 'Polish' or, as it
is less politely known,
garbage soup, makes
crisps from potato
peelings, vegetable
straw, and a two-tier
wedding cake. 2.15
The Parent Programme.
Inexpensive ways of
keeping the under-fives
entertained. 2.30 Cereflex
3.55 Regional news.

2.30 Daytime. Khalid Aziz
chairs a studio discussion
on Britain's prison system.
With David Mellor,
magistrates, prison
officers and former
prisoners. 3.00 That's My
Dog. Carine quiz.
Broadcast by Derek
Hobson. 3.25 Thames
news headlines. 3.30 The
Young Doctors.

4.00 Buxton Moon. A repeat
of the programme shown
at noon. 4.10 Bill the Miner
meets a king on the road
from his kingdom. 4.20 The
Really Wild Show. Terry
Nicholas, Nick Davies and
Chris Packham answer
another selection of young
viewers' nature questions.

5.00 John Craven's
Newswatch. 5.10 Grange
Hill. Episode 13. It is half
term and Robbie and
Ziggy take in the sights of
London. (Cereflex)

5.35 Hospital Watch. More live,
human drama. 5.45
Portsmouth's St Mary's
and Queen Alexandra's
hospitals.

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and
Nicholas Witchell. Weather
6.35 London Plus.
7.00 Holiday. Sarah Kennedy
reports from Benidorm on
the effect of stricter
policing of the place. John
Carlar takes a cruise
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and career on the eve of
receiving the Lifetime
Achievement Award in
France.

11.30 Nothing But the Best. A
parents' guide to
secondary education.

11.55 Weather.

Louise Brooks: profile to Anna
BBC 2 9.55pm

BBC 2

6.55 Open University Motion -
Newton's Law. Ends at
7.20
9.20 Cereflex
9.30 Daytime on Two. For
moderately mentally
handicapped young adults
9.35 Spanish conversation
9.52 Maths: Fibonacci
sequence. 10.15 Part six
of The Boy From Space.
10.38 The development of
London's docklands. 11.00
A visit to Euston Castle
Museum, Dorchester.
11.17 Drawing and
painting butterflies and
colourful flowers. 11.39
Science: electronics. 12.00
French conversation. 12.05
Lesson 16 of a German for
beginners course. 12.5
Cereflex. 1.20 The French
seas and a two-tier
wedding cake. 2.15
Using maps and
compasses. 2.00 For four-
and five-year olds. 2.15
Working a remote farm in
the Highlands of Scotland.
2.40 Science: patterns of
growth.

3.00 Cereflex
3.30 News summary with
subtitles. Weather
3.55 Fast Forward. Video fun
for the young presented
by Fiona Benjamin
4.00 News. Jeremy Powell
and Tony Powell report
on the pop music, video and
film scenes of York.

4.50 The Adventure Game. The
first in the series of tests
of ingenuity between the
ruler of the planet Arg and
Earthlings whose
representatives by Heather
Couper, Keith Chagwin
and Adam Gilbey.

5.15 The Money Makers. The
first of a new series of six
programmes in which
David Lomas talks to a
number of the world's
most successful
businessmen, beginning
with John Harvey-Jones.
His new book, 'ICI's
million pounds into more
than a billion pounds
profit.'

6.00 South East Reports. In
this series of tests of
ingenuity between the
ruler of the planet Arg and
Earthlings whose
representatives by Heather
Couper, Keith Chagwin
and Adam Gilbey.

6.30 Danger Man. British
secret service agent, John
Drake, investigates the
murder of an American
serviceman in Germany.
Karl Brown.

7.00 Channel Four News with
Alastair Stewart and
Nicholas Owen includes a
special report on the new
political party in the Irish
Republic, the Progressive
Democrats.

7.50 Comment. With his views
on a matter of topical
importance, the
comprehensive school
deputy headmaster,
Jeremy Cunningham.
Weather.

8.00 Food and Drink. Among the
santa's first week-end
debaucheries, a taste test
and a comparison of chilled
foods with the frozen
variety.

9.00 1. Claudio. Part six and
John Hurt makes his
appearance as Caligula,
the son who was
instrumental in the
fall of his father,
Germanicus.

9.55 Anna: Louise Brooks. A
profile of the Hollywood
actress who died last year,
in which she talks candidly
about her life which was
more than a passing
resemblance to Lulu,
perhaps her most
celebrated role. A
pleasure-seeking heroine
of Wedekind's Pandora's
Box.

10.50 A Party Political
Broadcast on behalf of the
Labour Party.

11.00 Newsnight.
11.45 Weather
**Open University: Richard
Hogges. A Measured
Life. Ends at 12.20**

CHANNEL 4

2.30 Film: Seven Keys (1962)
starring Alan Dobie and
Jeanne Carson. Thriller
about an ex-convict who is
left a set of keys in the will
of a former cell-mate.
Directed by Pat Jackson.
3.35 Paul Tomkowiak - Street
Railway Switchman.
Canadian made short
probing one of the unsung
heroes of Winnipeg whose
job it is to keep the street
railway switches free of
ice and mud.

3.45 Years Ahead. Magazine
programme for the older
viewer presented by
Robert Douglas. This
week's edition focuses on
care for the community
and includes a discussion
on provision for carers,
with Harriet Harman and a
representative of the
older people's movement.

4.30 Countdown. Yesterday's
contestants, Andy Keeble
and Sandie Simons return
for a second time.
5.00 News. Sam Harris's
simultaneous appearance
in Chicago and New York
almost costs Darrin his job
as a news anchor.

5.30 The Final Programme.
The final programme of
handyman Mike Smith's
series and he puts the
finishing touches to the
new house he has been
working on through the
series. (postponed from
last week)

6.00 Pop the Question. Pop
music quiz. The
regular team of
Chris Tarrant and David
Hamilton, are joined by
Eve Ferret, Gary Wilmet,
Stephanie Lawrence and
Ken Bruce.

6.30 Danger Man. British
secret service agent, John
Drake, investigates the
murder of an American
serviceman in Germany.
Karl Brown.

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Nicholas Owen includes a
special report on the new
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on a matter of topical
importance, the
comprehensive school
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11.00 Newsnight.
11.45 Weather
**Open University: Richard
Hogges. A Measured
Life. Ends at 12.20**

CHOICE

disparate and dependent: broad
Alas, so-called grown-ups
with more wounds to inflict on
the Roberts family and
tomorrow's film tells how Jeanette
Roberts' plan to build a
bridge between her children and
a group of elderly, cured
leprosy victims, living near
by, came to grief as an
indication of that sector of
society that claims it is acting
in the name of Christian charity
while ignoring the community
ethic that is the essence of a
charitable role. The
documentary left me feeling
more angry than anything I
have seen on television for a very
long time.

Take a Cooks (Channel
4.30pm) reminds those of us

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert. J. C.
Bach (Sonata in D, Op.
10 No. 4), Brahms (Ballade
in minor, Op. 118 No. 3).
Lupino, piano; Diersdorf.
(Ode Concerto in G; 3.
Schubert (Entr'acte No. 3 and
other music from
Rosamunde), 8.00 News.

8.05 Concert: part two.
Wagner (Forest
Scenes), Donizetti (Una
fanciulla in chios),
Grieg (Piano
Concerto), Liszt (Sonata
in B minor), 8.30 News.
9.05 This Week's Composers.
Delibes and Massenet.
Massenet (symphonic poem
Miska), Delibes (ballet
music, Act 1).
10.00 Danish Radio 50.
Nelson (rhapsodic
overture An imaginary
journey through the Far
Islands), Langgaard (Music
of the Spheres).

10.50 Carlotta and Soler. Soler
(Concerto for two organs;
major for two organs);
Carlotta (Laetitia sum,
wonder King, with Accanto
and soloists).
11.15 Israel Piano Trio. Mozart
(Trio in G, K. 498), and
Brahms (Trio in C minor, Op.
101).
12.10 Midday Concert. BBC
Scottish SO Part
one. Elgar (Waltz of Youth);
Stravinsky (Dances
concertantes), 1.00 News.
1.05 Midday Concert. BBC
Dulux (Intermezzo,
Fennmore and Gerda; On
heaving the first cuckoo;
La Cenerentola
(Symphony No. 104).
2.00 Guitar music: Stepan
Rak plays some of his
own compositions.
2.30 The Gentle Trumpet.
Mahler (Wo der schone
Trumpeter blasen);
Copland (Quiet City);
Saint-Saens (Sapient in E flat,
Op. 65); Franz Schmidt
(Symphony No. 4).
4.00 Elizabeth Gale and
Martin Lepp, soprano
and piano recital. Works by
Schubert (Mignon songs
by Goethe); Wolf (settings of
the same poems); and
Debussy (Anettes dules and
other works), 4.55 News.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.
Andrew Kerner with a
selection of recorded music.
6.30 Robert Johnson: Jakob
Lindbergh plays works
including Fagan, Alkan, and
Campan's Whistle.
7.00 British Piano Music.
Kathryn Slott plays
Howard's Sonata and
works by Howard
Ferguson (Five Bagatelles),
Cyril Scott and Tippett
(Sonata No. 4).
7.45 Mahler: Symphony No. 2.
BBC SO/Choir/
Philharmonic Choir/BBC
Symphony Chorus/Felicity Lott
and Felicity Palmer.
9.15 Alexander Gough and
Rupert Bawden.
Grosvenor Chamber Group.
Gough (Suite Op. 11), and
Bawden (The Angel and the
Ship of the Stars).
10.00 Jazz Today. Charles Fox
presents John Stevens's
Freebop.

Radio 4

6.55 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing:
Shipping. 6.10 Farming.
6.20 Player for the Day.
6.30 Today, including 7.30.
8.30 News. 8.45
Weather. 7.00, 8.00
News. 7.20 Letters. 7.25
8.30 Sport. 7.45 Thought
for the Day. 8.55
Weather. Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call. 01-560-
4411. Listeners call for a
discussion about legislation
on pornography.
10.00 News. From Our Own
Correspondent. Live from
London abroad, reported by
BBC foreign
correspondents.
10.30 Morning Story. The
story of a man who is
Phyllis Anderson. The reader
is James Benson.
10.45 Daily Service. (New
York. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30.
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Dawn-to-dusk litany for unknowns left behind



Dr David Owen



Sir John Mills



Joanna Lumley



Peter Bowles



Edward Fox



Twiggy



Timothy West



Jeremy Irons

By Patricia Clough
On and on it went, from freezing dawn to icy dusk, the interminable litany of names, lifted by the bitter wind across the grey Thames to the grey city beyond.

Unknown names of unknown Soviet Jews, spoken by British actors, writers, musicians, journalists, politicians and bishops in the hope that the very speaking might help

to bring about their release from the country they long to leave. For each name drama students strewed a red carnation on gravel floor of the twisted stone circle on the South Bank in front of the National Theatre which, to the delight of its sculptor, John Maise, was being used for the first time.

Last week Anatoly Shcharansky, the most famous refusenik, was released amid massive publicity after many years of hell. These people, said Tom Stoppard, the Czech-born playwright who organized the roll-call, are the unknowns without personal champions, the ones who were left behind.

And by the time the roll-call ended at dusk after ten and a half hours only about 9,000 names had been spoken - not even half of the 25,000 who have had the courage to apply for exit visas. These in turn are only a tiny fraction of the 380,000 who taken the initial step of asking the Israeli Government, through relatives, for an invitation to go and live there.

Only a handful of passers-by came to listen as wind-chill plunged the temperature to minus 21 degrees and a dusting of snow fell over the scene. But Mr Stoppard, bundled up against the cold in two coats, a sweater and a scarf, was not worried.

For there were TV cameras and press photographers drawn, as he knew they would be, by the appearance, one after another, of 200 well-known personalities, most of them non-Jews, including Felicity Kendal (who began

converting to Judaism four years ago), Jeremy Irons, Anthony Hopkins, John Mills, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. There were writers, like Christopher Fry, John Braine and Kingsley Amis, leading newspaper editors, and clergy, among them the Bishop of London.

Letter from Washington

The gossips catch up with Reagan

Black sheep in the White House are uncomfortably conspicuous. The hapless Carters had a flock large enough to keep the gossip columnists busy for four rollicking years. Billy the brother, with his Libyan connections; Gloria, the motorbiking sister whose son languished in a Californian jail, son Chip, with his crumbling marriage; and the irrepressible Miz Lillian. The Reagans, by contrast, seemed sedately proper, sharing with their predecessors only the habit of holding hands in public.

But Washington gossip columnists, being what they are, soon found some items to pick over. Wasn't there a family feud between eldest son Michael and his stepmother Nancy? Why had the First Family refused to see their grand-daughter for her first 18 months? And what about young Ron and his wish to be a dancer? How would the Joffrey Ballet crowd go down with Betsy Bloomingdale, Walter Annenberg and the rest of the Reagans' conservative Californian set?

The press has had fun with Ron's marriage, in jeans and sneakers, his gripping about exploitation in the ballet and his standing in line for unemployment benefit, saying that since all America was on the dole, he was too.

Happily for the President, the supermarket tabloids have never found any real skeletons to rattle. And the Reagans, with years of Hollywood experience, have shrugged off the showbiz prattle.

But recent weeks must have stretched even the Gipper's tolerance. Patty Davis, Nancy and Ronald's actress daughter, has just written a scandalizingly autobiographical 'novel' about growing up in an anti-war protester in a political family. And Ron has become a correspondent for *Playboy*, and appeared on network television in his underpants.

His zany performance, in a hot-pink shirt and white briefs, guitar in hand and belting out raucous pop, mimicked the film *Rocky Horror*, which tells of a young man left alone at home who starts a prostitution ring.

It was the talk of the town next day. Papa missed it, quickly got a video tape and affected to be impressed. Pressed to evaluate Ron Jr's performance, he could say only: "I was very surprised."

Ron's *Playboy* article on the Geneva summit (remember Mr Carter's notorious "adultery in the heart" interview?) got some inside information from his presidential father; but the White House had to scramble to make up for some very unflattering details of life in the US Embassy in Moscow.

And now Patty, with her book *Home Front*, has followed the trend of spilling the family beans, set by the daughters of John Crawford and Bette Davis. The heroine is a young woman named Beth Canfield whose father becomes Governor of California and calls out the National Guard to halt campus anti-war protests which, he is convinced, are the work of communist agitators, while his daughter becomes an anti-war activist.

When her father sets his sights on the presidency, family loyalties become strained. "You have no idea how much you hurt your father when you participate in... demonstrations," her mother says.

Patty's book does not say what portions really did happen and what is fiction. But certainly some sounds familiar. As the First Family enters the White House after the inauguration, "my mother was carrying on conversation as she ducked in and out of rooms, inspecting furniture, drapes, walls".

At one point, our heroine reveals that she fell completely in love for the first time in the hallway at an expensive private school. We do not know the conversation in the real White House when the First Parents read that chapter.

Michael Binyon

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales opens the new Maternity Unit, Newham General Hospital, E13, 10.45.

The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visits Logica Plc, Newman Street, W1, 11.30.

Music

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Town Hall, 7.30.

Concert by the Wren Orchestra of London, St John's Smith Sq, SW1, 7.30.

Recital by Trinity College of Music, Southwark Cathedral, SE1, 1.10.

Concert by Cambrian Brass, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.05.

Recital by the Cathedral Choir, Cuschester Cathedral, 1.10.

Organ recital by Keith Elcombe, Maxwell Hall, Salford University, Crescent House, 12.35.

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia, Spa Grand Hall, Scarborough, 7.30.

1st Centenary Concert, Great Hall, Exeter University, 7.30.

Concert of music and poetry by Colla Voce, St Anne's Church, New Green, 7.30.

Mozart - a dramatic portrait in words and music, Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill, N6, 8.

Piano recital by Yuri Egorov, Common Room, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, WC2, 6.30.

Organ recital by John Belcher.

Bristol Cathedral, College Green, 1.15.

Concert by Guildhall School of Music Chamber Orchestra, Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, 1.05.

Piano recital by Bernard d'Ascoli, Lecture Theatre Block, Essex University, Colchester, 7.45.

Concert by the City University Symphony Orchestra, St Giles, Cripplegate, EC2, 7.30.

Organ recital by Catherine Ennis, St Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall, 1.10.

Recital by Susan Milani (flute) and Ian Brown (piano), Sam Newson Music Centre, South Street, Boston, Lincs, 6.30.

Talks, lectures

People with a message for today - Jacob, by the Rev Neville Crier, St Margaret Paternoster Church, 1.10.

Elizabeth Siddall: Life and Legend, National Poetry Centre, 21 Ears Court Sq, SW5, 7.30.

Architects and their work, by John Thompson, RIBA, 66 Portland Pl, W1, 6.15.

Into the unknown, by Nick Isabert, The London Institute, St Peter's Church, Vere St, W1, 1.10.

Pieter Bruegel mountains and men, by Prof J.E.C.T. White, Darwin Theatre, University College London, Gower St, WC1, 1.20.

Domesday rebound 1985, by Dr Helen Forde, Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle St, W1, 6.

George Sumner by Richard Humphreys, Gallery 4, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1, 1.

Tax avoidance: The English and American approach, by Mr P.J. Miller, The New Gate Centre, Strand Campus, Strand, WC2, 5.30.

Architects and their work, by John Thompson, RIBA, 66 Portland Pl, W1, 6.15.

Bridges, by Aubrey Tulley, Science Museum, SW7, 1.

The London Survey, by Tony Hart, Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Rd, Bromley, 8.

Animal Hunters, Natural History Museum, 3.

Sir Joshua Reynolds's Collection of paintings, by Francis Brown, Arts Faculty Lecture Theatre 1, Bristol University, 5.15.

Has public service broadcasting any future? by Gerard Mansell, Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, Highgate, N6, 8.15.

Reynolds and Costume, by Aileen Ribeiro, Goldsmiths Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St, WC1, 6.15.

Turkish carpets of the Ottoman period, by Eileen Graham, 12, The Decorative Arts of China by Gillian Darby, 1.15.

Victoria & Albert Museum, and endings: Turner's watercolours, by Colin Wiggins, Lower Floor Theatre, The National Gallery, WC2, 1.

General

Booksellers Fairs Association, City Book Market, St. Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3, 11.

Sale of art books, 11 Chaucer Rd, Cambridge, 7.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Drug Trafficking Offences Bill, remaining stages, private Bills.

Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, first day; Marriage (Wales) Bill, second reading.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending February 9:

- 1 EastEnders (Thu/Sun) 23.05m
- 2 EastEnders (Tue/Sun) 21.90m
- 3 Noel Edwards Late Late Show 16.55m
- 4 That's Life 14.30m
- 5 The Bill 13.55m
- 6 The Bill 13.55m
- 7 Every Second Counts 13.55m
- 8 News and Weather (Sun 21:10) 13.00m
- 9 Wogan (Fri) 12.65m
- 10 Saturday Night Takeaway 12.65m

ITV

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada 17.50m
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada 17.50m
- 3 What You Want Here (Mon/Wed) Thames 16.10m
- 4 Sunday Surprize LWT 14.55m
- 5 Duty Free Yacht 14.55m
- 6 Bullseye Central 13.55m
- 7 News and Weather (Sun 21:10) 13.00m
- 8 Crazy Like a Fox 13.25m
- 9 Never the Two Shall Meet 13.10m
- 10 All in Good Faith Thames 13.00m

BBC 1

- 1 Yes Prime Minister 7.00m
- 2 Party Minutes 6.70m
- 3 The News 6.30m
- 4 Tom O'Connor 4.55m
- 5 International Darts (Sun 17:00) 3.55m
- 6 Star Trek 4.50m
- 7 News and Weather 4.25m
- 8 Bob Monkhouse Show 4.10m
- 9 Countdown 3.50m
- 10 Discovering Animals 3.50m

BBC 2

- 1 Brookside (Tue/Sat) 6.50m
- 2 Brookside (Mon/Sat) 6.50m
- 3 The News 6.30m
- 4 The News 6.30m
- 5 The News 6.30m
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BBC 3

- 1 The News 6.30m
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BBC 4

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BBC 5

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BBC 6

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BBC 9

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BBC 10

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BBC 11

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BBC 12

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BBC 13

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BBC 14

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BBC 15

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BBC 16

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BBC 17

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Roads

The Midlands: M5: Contrail between junction 4 and 5 (Bromsgrove/Droitwich) only one lane northbound; northbound entry at junction 5 closed. M1: Roadworks southbound between junctions 22 (A50 Leicestershire and Coalville) and 23 (A512 Loughborough and Shepshed); one lane closed; delays.

Wales and West: M5: Only one lane open on the northbound carriageway at junction 25 (Taunton). A419: Major reconstruction work on the Charnock to Swindon road at South Cerney; delays avoid if possible. A39: Lane restrictions and temporary signals between Street and Walton, Somerset.

The North: M18: Doncaster to Sheffield link road closed; diversion due to work on M18. A19: Fencing work S of Mutton floyer, Co Durham, and construction of a new slip road between A19 and B1432. A19: Resurfacing work with temporary lights at Shipton (NW of York); delays.

Scotland: M8: Surface repairs on eastbound carriageway W of junction 5. M8: Repairs to slip roads on the M8 at Newhouse interchange on the E and westbound carriageways; delays.

A93: Perth City: Single line traffic and lights on Glasgow Road and South Methuen Street; road closed between High Street and South Street; diversions.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.14	2.00
Canada \$	1.14	1.00
Denmark kr	11.48	10.36
France F	166.55	166.55
Germany M	1.93	1.93
Italy L	1.36	1.36
Japan ¥	163.60	163.60
Netherlands f	2.36	2.36
Spain P	166.55	166.55
Sweden S	10.46	10.46
Switzerland F	2.00	2.00
US \$	1.54	1.54
Yugoslavia D	56.50	56.50

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC.

Retail Price Index: 328.5

London: The FT index closed up 1.9 at 1222.7.

Snow Reports

Depth (cm)	U	P	Plate	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C
AUSTRIA	100	200	good	varied	fine	0
FRANCE	150	200	good	powder	good	-5
La Plagne	135	270	good	crust	good	-5
Megève	135	270	good	crust	good	-5
Morzine	85	190	good	varied	good	-2
ITALY	110	250	good	varied	good	0
Switzerland	110	250	good	varied	good	0
Andorra	70	170	good	varied	good	-2
Devol	90	170	good	varied	good	-1
Murron	70	150	good	crust	good	0
Villars	100	210	soft	powder	fair	-5

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

Weekend figures.

Weather forecast

A cold E airstream will be maintained with a complex area of low pressure over France moving away S.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: Mainly cloudy, with scattered snow showers; winds E fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 10°C (34°).

Central N, SW England, Channel Islands: Mainly cloudy, some isolated snow showers; winds E fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 10°C (34°).

E Midlands, E, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Cloudy, some clear intervals, scattered light sleet or snow showers; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (34°).

W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Cloudy but with clear, sunny intervals, mainly dry; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (34°).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Little change.

Lighting-up time

London 6.51 pm to 6.37 am

Edinburgh 5.53 pm to 7.00 am

Cardiff 6.15 pm to 6.55 am

Perth 6.15 pm to 6.55 am

Yesterday

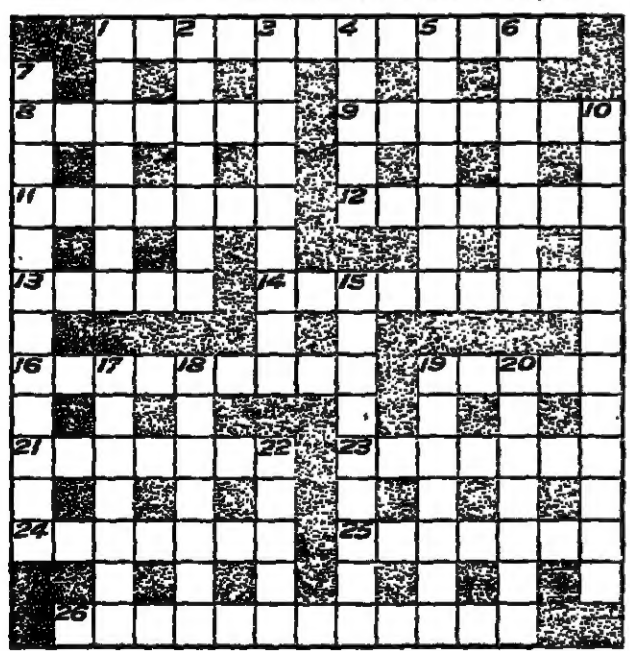
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play

Monday's share market was dominated by the news that the weekly dividend figures have been revised downwards. This has led to a general fall in share prices.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,972



ACROSS

- 1 Squeakers and Son in pastime (9,3).
- 8 Tar discoloration makes us hold back (7).
- 9 Letter-writer may claim to be this afterwards, note (7).
- 11 Mental disposition and a style of painting (7).
- 12 Raise hockey side that's incomplete without a team leader (7).
- 13 Sweetest thing in the limits of confectionery? (5).
- 14 Doctor's visitor declaring himself intolerant of delay (9).
- 16 Redesigning wrapper OK as the clerk's job? (5,4).
- 19 Cereal from a tropic isle (5).
- 21 Container of ale, or one of water by a roadside (7).
- 23 Cancel entry if one's not up to it? (7).
- 24 Beautiful girl perhaps unwelcome in a china shop (7).
- 25 Like Horning's crackman or a cricket-playing gentleman (7).
- 26 Two very large forces on opposite sides in N America (7,5).

DOWN

- 1 Job on the island for one in public service (7).
- 2 Pictures for instance turned up in the possession of one queen (7).
- 3 Italian peasant has a racket in Portuguese money (9).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,971

ACROSS

- 1 Squeakers and Son in pastime (9,3).
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